REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.

OMUKAE desu.

VOLUME 3

MECA TANAKA

OMUKAE desu.

By Meca Tanaka

Volume 3

お迎えです。

OMUKAEDESU.

CONTENTS

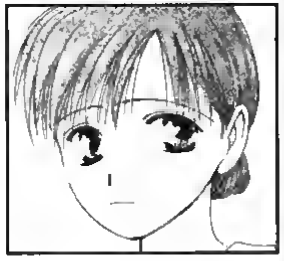
3 Omukae Desu.

199 Mecasite: Comics Version!!

THE STORY

High School student Madoka Tsutsumi has the ability to ses the spirits of the recently deceased. He is recruited by Nabsehima (who usually wears a big bunny euit) to work for the G.S.G.

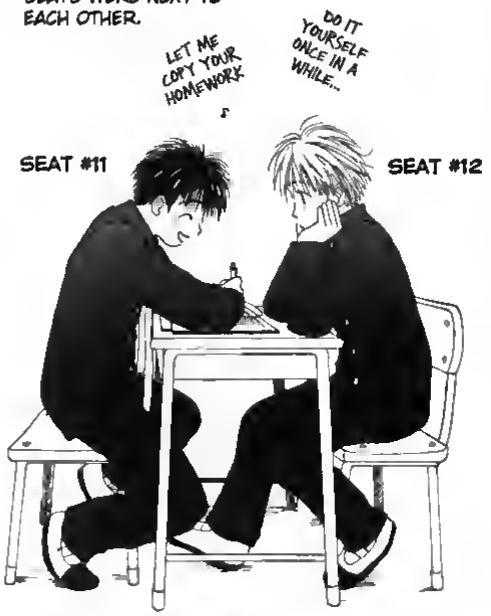
G.S.G. is a service that ie responsible for trsneporting reluctant ghosts over to the other side. (And they deliver them by motorcycle!) Usually, these spirits have some unfinished bueiness that they need to conclude before they are ready to move on. It's up to Madoka–working with fsllow agents Yuzuko and Aguma–to help them get it done.



RECENTLY ...
...A GIRL HAS BEEN GETTING ON TOP OF ME EVERY NIGHT.
TSUDA-KUN, AFTER GROWING HIS HAIR OUT A LITTLE.
N-NO, TSUDA... THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR SEX LIFE?
WHY AREN'T YOU ON TOP?
WHAT TOO TIRED?! SHE'S GONNA GET WORN OUT!
IT'S SUMMER.

BACKGROUND SCENE OF NO IMPORTANCE 1

TSUDA-KUN AND EN-CHAN HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. THEY GOT TO BE FRIENDS BECAUSE THEIR ASSIGNED SEATS WERE NEXT TO EACH OTHER.



A LETTER?
WHEN DID SOMEONE PUT IT IN HERE? OLD-FASHIONED ...
IT'S THE SEASON FOR THESE KINDS OF STORIES.
THEY SAY YOU CAN HEAR IT COMING FROM THE GYM'S STORAGE ROOM.
"BOO-HOO-HOO-HOO-HOO!"
AND THEY SAY IT'S A GUY'S VOICE...
WHO'S IT FROM?
Dear
Tsutsumi-sama...
I have something very, very important that I need to talk to you about.
Please meet me in the gym tonight at 7:30
PS
...THE GYM...
A GUY'S VOICE? HMM...
FOR SOME REASON, THAT MAKES IT SOUND MORE BELIEVABLE ...

NOT THAT I THINK THAT HAS ANY-THING TO DO WITH THIS.
I MEAN, IT'S LIKE SLEEP PARALYSIS. I FEEL A-A WOMAN PRESSING DOWN ON ME.
I THINK SHE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING, BUT I CAN'T HEAR HER OR OPEN MY EYES.
...THE GHOSTLY SOBBING IN THE GYM?
SUMMER.
HEY!
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT...

WAAAA! I'M SCARED!
I'M GOIN' AGAIN! GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
THIS MONTH'S THEME IS SPORTS.!
FOR NOW, WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE EQUIPMENT ROOM?
EQUIPMENT ROOM
WHOOSH
SWISH
WHAP
WE PLAYING VOLLEYBALL? I'LL GLADLY BE YOUR OPPONENT.
OH! THANKS FOR COMING!
AHH!
WEARING A BUNNY SUIT, SO NO DAMAGE DONE
NOPE!
BUT YOU'RE CLOSE.
YUZUKO-CHAN...

AND HERE I COME. COOL AS CAN BE... NOT SCARED ONE BIT... JEEZ!
TRUDGE TRUDGE
If you don't come, I'll put a curse on you!!
BY GSG♡♡
WHOMP
THEY THINK ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CALL AND I'LL COME RUNNING!
RATTLE RATTLE

WHAT'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT?
HUH?
...WAS TO PLAY PING PONG! JUST ONCE!
I WAS THE ONLY MEMBER, SEE?
DAY IN, DAY OUT, DAY IN, DAY OUT, FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS, I PLAYED AGAINST THE WALL.
AND THEN, ONE DAY, OUT OF THE BLUE, I GOT IN A CAR ACCIDENT ...
... LEAVING ME...
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
DID I IMPROVE AS A PING PONG PLAYER AFTER THREE YEARS?
...WITH THE GREAT QUESTIONS!
AND WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO PLAY AGAINST ANOTHER PERSON? YES, THE ONLY THING I HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO...
...WAS PLAYING AGAINST SOMEONE ELSE!! IN A RIP-ROARING MATCH!

BUCHO*-SAN, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CRY NOW
BOO HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO
*REFERRING HERE TO THE CAPTAIN OF A SCHOOL CLUB
SOB... EVEN WHEN HE SAYS "JUST KIDDING," THE DAMAGE IS ALREADY DONE...!!
JUST KIDDING.
EVIL
WHY DO I ALWAYS FALL FOR IT?
YOUR PANTIES ARE PEEKING OUT OF YOUR SHORTS
HERE'S THE CAPTAIN OF THE PING PONG CLUB.
SO HE'S THE SOURCE OF THOSE RUMORS...
KINDA THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HIM.
ALL I WANTED...
BOOM/KU

COME ON, LET'S PLAY
THAT'S CUTE.
GIGGLE
MM...?
LET'S DO THIS!
ONE GAME, PLAYED TO 11 POINTS!
V
S
LET ME GET ME
NABESHIMA-SAN, AREN'T YOU GOING TO DITCH THE RABBIT SUIT?
!!!!!!!
?
ALL RIGHT!

FINE WITH ME, BUT...
AGAINST WHO?
ME! HEH-HEH!
WHAT, ONLY YUZUKO-CHAN IS GOING TO BE THE AUDIENCE?
THAT'S KINDA SAD. WHY DON'T YOU INVITE AGUMA-SAN, TOO?
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH.
SO LET HIM PLAY ALREADY.
HOW COULD WE SAY NO TO THAT?
UWWAAAAA
I'VE BEEN SO LONELY!!!
HAND GOES OUT TO COMFORT HIM WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT
IN THREE SUBJECTS!! ACTUALLY, I'M DUMB AS A BOX OF ROCKS! WAAA!
I'VE GOT MAKEUP TESTS COMING UP!!
I ALREADY TRIED CALLING HER...
...BUT SHE SAID...
...I CAN'T GO.
HUH.
I HAD NO IDEA...
I FEEL BAD FOR HER THAT SHE CAN'T COME OUT TO PLAY, SO I GAVE HER A BIG CLOSE-UP HERE

YOU WERE WIDE OPEN!!!
SLAM
WAA!
HAPPINESS INDEX 200%
TENGU *
HE REALLY IS GOOD.
BUCHO-SAN, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO WIN SO EASILY AGAINST HIM...
B-BUCHO-SAN?
OH. SORRY.
IT'S JUST THAT I'VE NEVER HAD THIS MUCH FUN.
*FABLED JAPANESE BEASTIE WITH A LONG NOSE AND ALSO USED TO DESCRIBE A BRAGGART

I WONDER HOW MUCH OF THAT IS B.S.
THIS SUIT IS MY HANDICAP!! I DIDN'T WIN THE BASEBALL GAME, BUT...
I GUESS THE SPARKS SHOULD BE EXPECTED
FINE, BUT ONCE WE START PLAYING, IT STAYS ON, NO MATTER WHAT!
HEH!
IN MY DAY, I PARTICIPATED IN THE ALL-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT!
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKL
TOSS!
OKAY, I'LL SERVE FIRST!
KRTAK
...ARE YOU UP FOR THIS?
YOUR BODY DOESN'T SEEM TO BE IN THE BEST CONDITION ...
OH. JUST LACK OF SLEEP IS ALL. I'M FINE.

THIRD ONE

HELLO, EVERYONE
I'M MECA TANAKA

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE MADE IT TO THE THIRD VOLUME OF "OMUKAE".

I'M SURPRISED! HONESTLY, I NEVER DREAMED THAT I'D BE ALLOWED TO GET THIS FAR WITH THE STORY.

I FEEL HAPPY.

I FEEL LUCKY.

BUT I'M ALSO ANXIOUS BECAUSE I'M NOT USED TO THE ABOVE FEELINGS IT'S MY PESSIMISTIC NATURE...

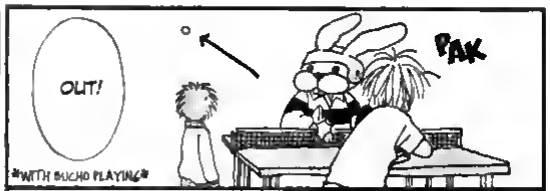
THIS VOLUME IS CRAMMED WITH SIX STORIES OF PURE "OMUKAE." I HOPE YOU STICK WITH ME THROUGH TO THE END.

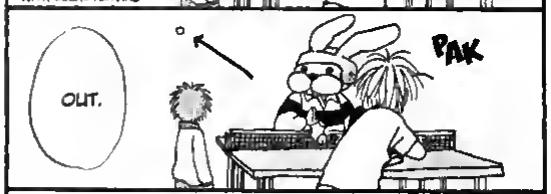
OH! BY THE WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE "OMUKAE" IS BECOMING A "CD DRAMA."

I THOUGHT I'D TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT SO I HOPE YOU STICK AROUND FOR THAT, TOO.

WHEN SOMEONE CALLS...

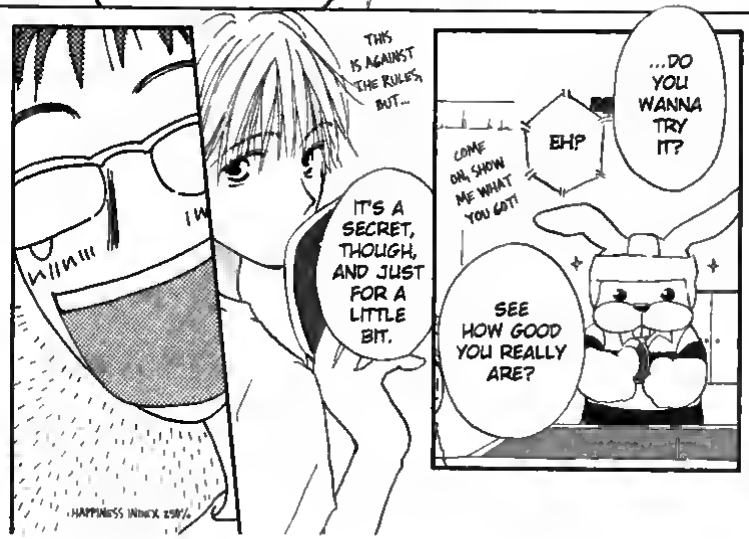
THE DOOR TO THE OTHER SIDE HAS OPENED...





THANK YOU...
YOU CAN TAKE OVER AGAIN.
EH?
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE ONLY EVER PLAYED AGAINST A WALL...
DRIP DRIP DRIP
I DON'T HAVE A CLUE HOW TO MAKE THE BALL HIT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE!
SOB SOB SOB
DOESN'T KNOW WHAT LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE.
HMM
YAAN!

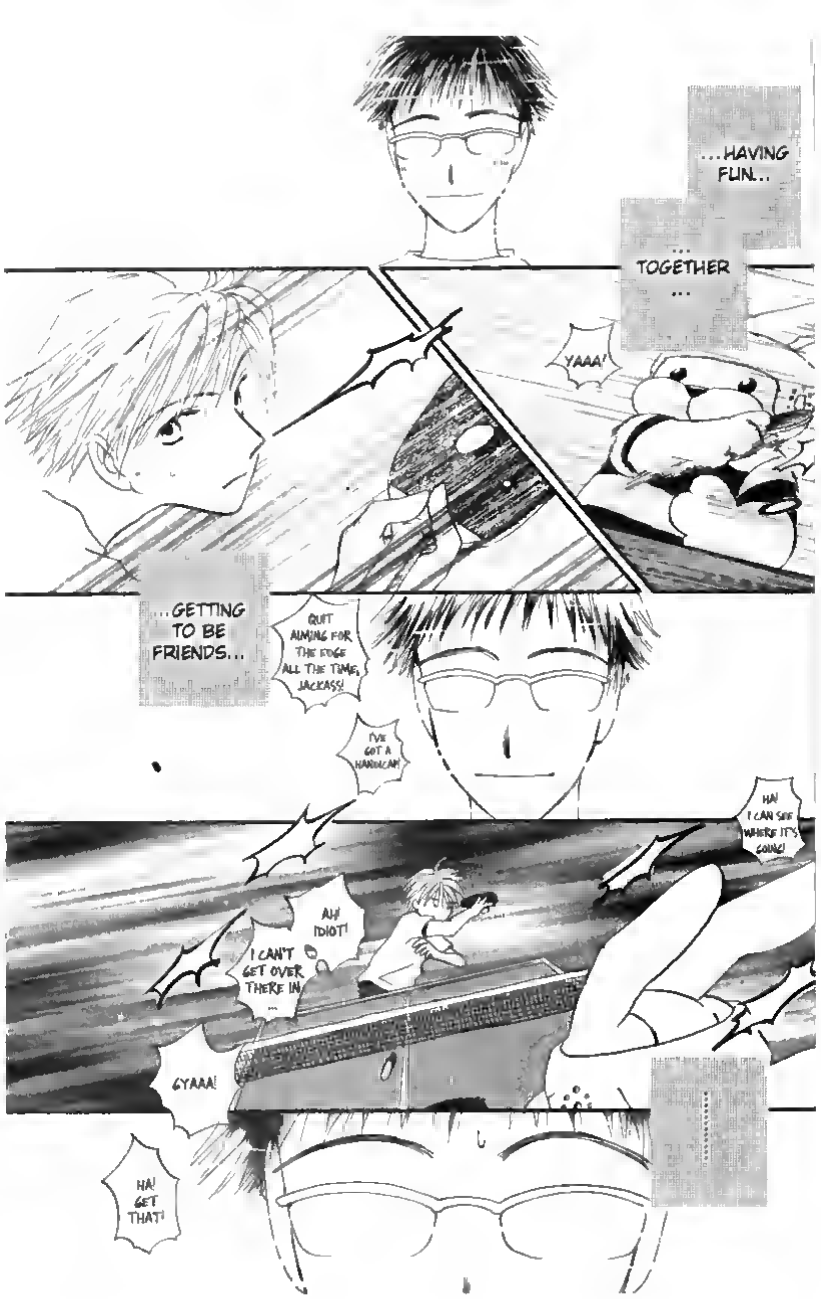
I WAS ALWAYS FACING THE WALL, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...
I DIDN'T CARE IF THEY WERE A STRONG OR WEAK PLAYER...
AND I'M SO HAPPY NOW, I CAN BARELY KEEP MYSELF FROM JUMPING OUT OF YOUR BODY WITH JOY!


THIS IS AGAINST THE RULES, BUT...
IT'S A SECRET, THOUGH, AND JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.
HAPPINESS INDEX 150%
EH?
...DO YOU WANNA TRY IT?
COME ON, SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!
SEE HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE?

GOOD LUCK!
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM.
PLAYING LIKE THIS...
...WITH SOMEONE...
WHAT THE HELL, EN-CHAN*?! IS PING PONG YOUR SPECIALTY?!
I'M JUST A JACK-OF ALL-TRADES AND A MASTER OF SOME!
COCKY LITTLE...
*"EN" IS A DIFFERENT READING OF THE KANJI FOR "MADOKA" AND THEIR NICKNAME FOR HIM.

I DON'T WANT TO BE A PAIN IN THE NECK...
YES. IF I PLAY, SHE'LL HAVE TO KEEP CHASING THE BALL...
...AND I CAN'T RALLY ANYWAY...
WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?!
I MEAN...
...I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
ALL RIGHT, WHATEVER.
EH?
UNNHH!
SMAK
KRAK

...HUH?
CHAK!!!
HUFF
HUFF
PANT
PANT
...TSUTSUMI-KUN?
YOU'RE REALLY SWEATING HERE...
PHEW...
TRICKLE TRICKLE
YOU JUST KEEP YOUR BUNNY SUIT ON, PAL.
HUFF
HUFF
HOW HOT IN THIS THING!
...NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE IT TO MATCH POINT.


...HAVING FUN...
...TOGETHER...
YAAA!
...GETTING TO BE FRIENDS...
QUIT AIMING FOR THE EDGE ALL THE TIME, JACKASS!
I'VE GOT A HANDICAP
HA! I CAN SEE WHERE IT'S GOING!
AH! IDIOT!
I CAN'T GET OVER THERE IN...
GYAAA!
HA! GET THAT!

I WAS ALWAYS...
FACING THE WALL, LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE...
GET READY TO BE SMASHED
KAK

YOUR BODY ISN'T...
BUCHO!
I'M GOING TO WIN THIS.
I WAS ALWAYS FACING THE WALL...
AH NO

IT'S UP IN THE AIR!

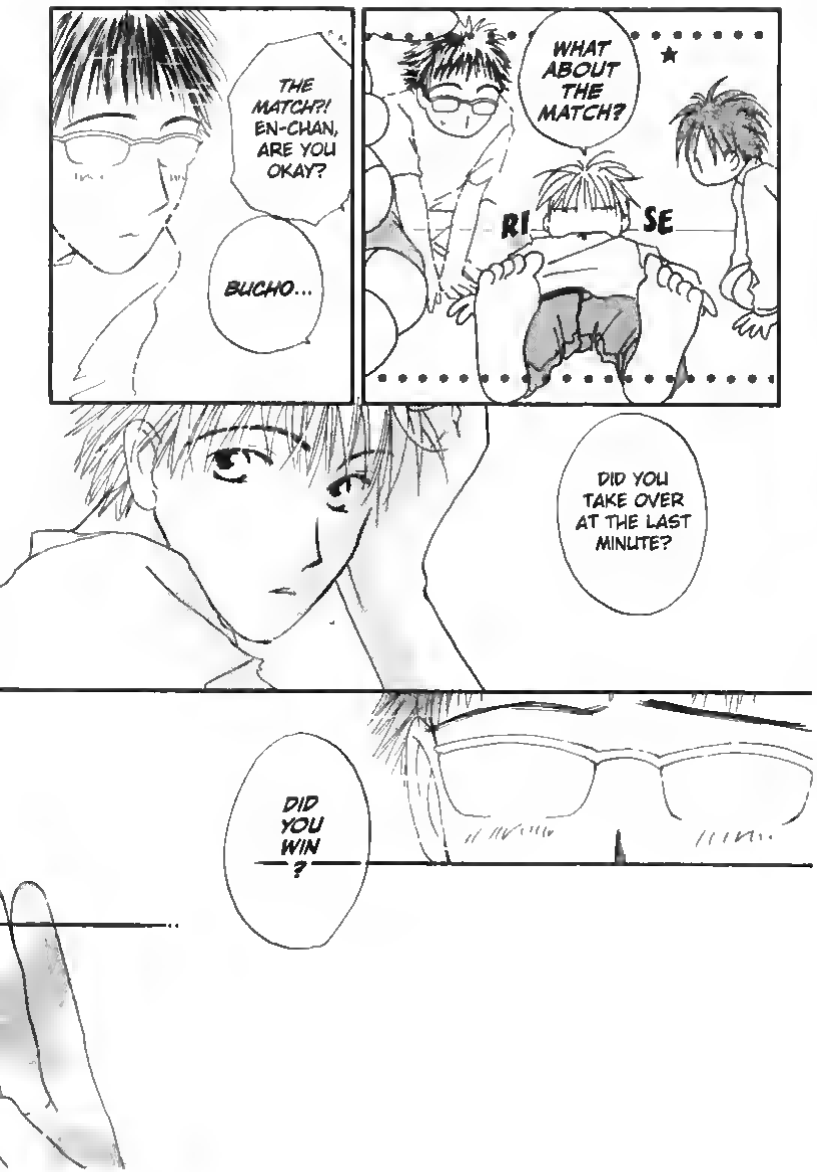
SMASH!
AOWWW!
BUMP
WAA!
WAA!
BUMP
BUMP

WHAT'S WAITING...
...BEYOND THE WALL?
WILL I WIN?
WILL I LOSE?

BATTLE
THAT'S WHAT I WAS CHASING.
THAT'S WHY I'M SO...
EN-CHA...!
...SO...

OOF!!
I'M SORRY!
CLATTER
POOF
.....
L..
HUH?
SLUMP
THAT WAS TOO CLOSE...
EN-CHAN...
WHO WAS THAT GIRL JUST NOW?

WH...
CLANK
CLANK
WHO ARE YOU?


THE MATCH?! EN-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
BUCHO...
WHAT ABOUT THE MATCH?
RI SE
DID YOU TAKE OVER AT THE LAST MINUTE?
DID YOU WIN ?
...

WHILE WE WERE PLAYING, I COULD FEEL HIM BECOMING WEAKER.
HE WAS SAY HE HADN'T BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP
FROM NOW ON, YOU'VE GOTTA TELL ME WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING UP TO PAR.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU, IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY!
EN-CHAN ...
YOU PUSHED YOURSELF TOO HARD!
.....
WHAT ...

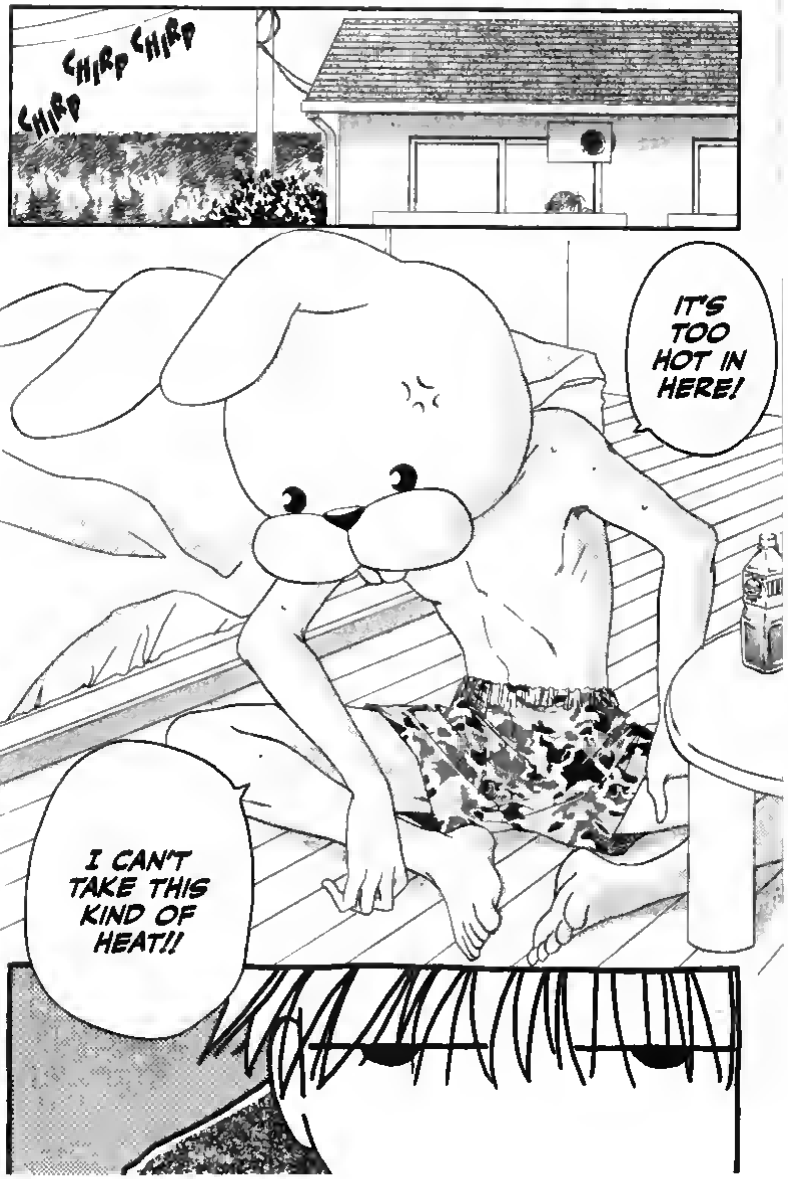
...
MMM
...
...AND NOW THAT I HAVE IT, I WON'T EVER LET IT GET COLD...
SUDDENLY HEY! A SOCK?
ESCORT VEHICLE
I'LL HAVE TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER THAT GIRL IN THE GYM IS A G.S.G. TARGET.
HEY! IT'S THIS WAY! THIS WAY!
...AS IT WARMS MY HEART.
FROM THAT NIGHT ON...
END
WAVE
THAT FIRE I WAS CHASING...
...I FINALLY CAUGHT IT...

お迎えです。

OMUKAEDESU.

WHOA! STILL FEEL DIZZY!
...NO ONE HEARD GHOSTLY MALE SOBBING IN THE GYM EVER AGAIN.
INSTEAD, THE GYM WAS SOON TO BE FILLED WITH...
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
KYAAA!
ALL OF A SUDDEN, PING PONG HAS BEEN GETTIN' POPULAR...
...THE CHEERFUL SHOUTS OF GIRLS.
BUCHO... YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE TOO LATE!
GOT THAT RIGHT!
DAY-AM, THEY'RE CUTE!
SUPER JR!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME ♡ OVER.
THAT AIR ♡ CONDITIONING WORKS REALLY WELL.
SORRY!
WAS IN THE APARTMENT WHEN EN-CHAN WOKE UP
...AND LOOKING LIKE AN IMBECILE!
YOU COME TO A GUY'S APARTMENT UNINVITED AND START BITCHING LEFT AND RIGHT?! WHAT'S THAT?!
...WELL. WITH THOSE CLOTHES ON, YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.
THIS MONTH'S THEME IS "AT HOME."
OH, CLAM IT! IT'S TOO FRIGGIN' HOT!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M WEARIN', GO OUT AND BUY US SOME ICE CREAM!
AWAAA! NABESHIMA-SAN, I TOLD YOU TO PUT SOMETHING ON!
DUMMY! I'M YOUR PARTNER!
NABESHIMA-SAN SAID HE COULDN'T STAND THE SMELL OF THE BUNNY SUIT...
...SO I BORROWED YOUR WASHING MACHINE.
RATTLE RATTLE


CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
IT'S TOO HOT IN HERE!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS KIND OF HEAT!!

CD.

"I HEARD ABOUT THE CD DRAMA THING! IS IT TRUE?" MY EDITOR ASKED ME AND I ANSWERED...

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT NEWS WOULD BE MAKING THE ROUNDS.. PLUS THERE'S MY WOMAN'S HEART, WHICH MAKES ME GET NERVOUS REALLY EASILY—AND THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE FACT THAT I WAS WRITING THE SCRIPT FOR THE DRAMA AT THE TIME AND GETTING INTO IT THE FARTHER I GOT.

THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME WRITING A SCRIPT (NON-MANGA), BUT IT WAS REFRESHING TO WRITE IN A DIFFERENT FORM AND A LOT OF FUN. I ALSO GOT TO REALIZE HOW DIFFERENT THE CHARACTERS' WAY OF SPEAKING IS FROM EACH OTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, EN-CHAN SPEAKS IN QUESTIONS.

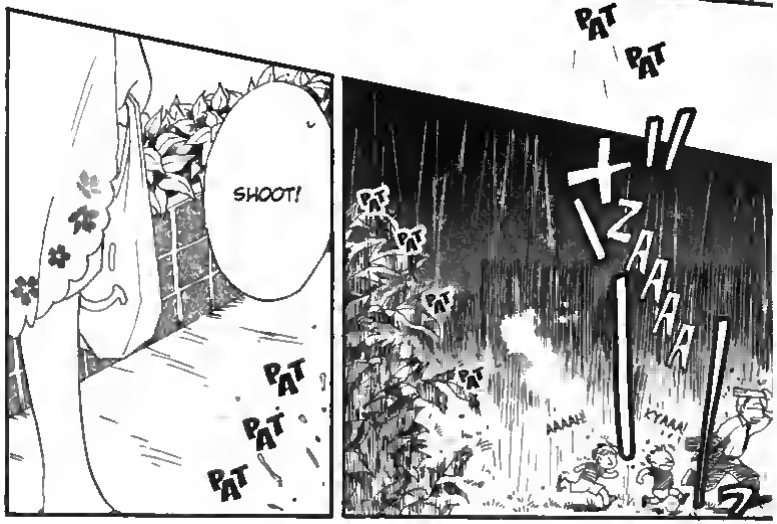
SO, WHAT'S IT FEEL LIKE TO DIE ONCE, GET A NEW BODY...
...AND THEN COME BACK?
HAH?
POP
HAHAHA WELL, SEE...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP, FROM WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE?
...ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN GET OVER THAT KINDA BAGGAGE...
...GOT A CHANCE OF MAKING IT INTO G.S.G.

*BLUE POPSICLE WITH SODA FLAVOR AND FIZZY STUFF INSIDE

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH...
BUT EVEN SO, YOU CAN FEEL HOT, COLD, LIKE THAT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT BODY OF YOURS IS...
...YOU GUYS DIED, RIGHT?
OOOH! I SURE CALLED THAT ONE!
THIS BODY WAS SUPPLIED TO ME BY THE COMPANY. AND IT IS FLESH AND BLOOD...
...HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM A HUMAN BODY.
SLAP SLAP

AH!
I'M STUCK HERE...
A BAKERY...
THE ICE CREAM'S GONNA MELT...
.....

AH!
LOOKS LIKE RAIN.
I'D BETTER GET THE LAUNDRY IN!
AH TOO BAD. YOU ALMOST HAD A COOL MOMENT THERE ANYWAY, PUT ON SOME MORE CLOTHES I'LL LEND YOU MINE
AH-CHOO


SHOOT!
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
PAT
IZARAA
AAAAH!
KYAAA!

PLEASE!
EH? IS IT REALLY OKAY?
BE CAREFUL GOING HOME!
THANKS!
EXCUSE ME...
TINKLE
WHY? I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO... YOU CAN TAKE YOUR FIST AWAY ANY TIME...
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO...
TINKLE
I ONLY HAVE ONE TO SPARE...
...BUT WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS UMBRELLA?

!!!
OH. HE'S OVER AT EN-CHAN'S ...
DO YOU WANT TO COME, TOO?
WHAT, DO I NEED YOUR PERMISSION?
I'M GOING! OF COURSE I'M GOING!
THE FIST BARELY TOUCHES... MORE AS A PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTACK!
NEEP PLEASE NO!
I'M SORRY!
OH REALLY?
I RAN IN FROM THE RAIN, TOO.
HOW ABOUT SAKE?
SCARED ME FOR A SECOND
MAYBE IT'S JUST A SUN SHOWER.
SO WHERE'S NABESHIMA-SAN?

...I WONDER WHY...
HAH?
THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION!
DING-DONG
HEY! DON'T WALK AWAY FROM ME!
ANSWER MY FREAKIN' QUESTION!
AH! SHE'S BACK! I THINK-
NABESHIMA-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
GRAB
KA'CHA
HUH?

...WHAT?
IS HE YOUR TYPE?
OH YEAH...
EN-CHAN, THAT GIRL FROM LAST TIME...
I FORGOT TO ASK BEFORE...
...BUT WHAT WAS HER RELATIONSHIP TO YOU? AN ACQUAINTANCE?
EN-CHAN, TRYING ON THE HEAD...
WHO?
THE GIRL IN THE EQUIPMENT ROOM OF THE GYM!
SHE'S ON G.S.G.'S LIST AFTER ALL.

I GUESS SHE THOUGHT THE GUY WAS SO HOT, SHE NEEDED TO COOL OFF.
BUT I LOVE WILD GUYS LIKE YOU, NANASHIMA-SAN.
AH! THAT'S MY ICE CREAM!
MY POPSICLE'S MELTED!
AN ORIGINAL BUN!
STRANGE SHAPE!
YOU MADE IT YOURSELF?
"...WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?"
CREAM.
WHAT'S INSIDE?
HUH. THEN IT'S JUST A REGULAR OLD CREAM BUN.

TWO SHOTS TO THE BODY AND ONE PUNCH TO THE BUNNY'S JAW.
THAT'LL TEACH HIM TO PUT HIS HANDS AROUND ME!
I'M COMING IN.
I MET YUZUKO A LITTLE WHILE AGO AND GOT IT FROM HER.
...AGUMA-SAN...I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU KNEW MY ADDRESS...
SHE WAS, LIKE, TRANSFIXED BY THE BAKERY GUY WHO LENT US AN UMBRELLA BUT JUST WHEN I THOUGHT SHE WAS DOIN' A STATUE IMPERSONATION, SHE SNAPPED OUT OF IT AND SAID SHE WAS GONNA COOL HER HEAD.
LAST I SAW HER WAS WHEN SHE WAS TODDLING OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF A PARK.
HERE YOU GO
SHE ASKED ME TO DELIVER THE ICE CREAM.
GOOD QUES-TION.
HAH? WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOIN'?

AT THE TIME...
I DIDN'T RESPOND. I ALREADY KNEW BY THEN...
WONDER WHOSE SHOP THAT WAS?
EITHER WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S MAKING STEADY PROGRESS TOWARDS HIS DREAM...
GOOD FOR HIM.
...I WASN'T PREPARED TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
HMMMM
IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? FOUR YEARS...?

IF I HAVE MY OWN SHOP IN THE FUTURE, I'LL SELL THIS BABY!
I CALL IT THE "TAMASHII BUN!"
THAT'S LAME!
CRUNCH
WRONG!
LOOK AT THE SHAPE! THIS THING OOZES ORIGI-NALITY!
SWOOSH
EH...?
BUT HEY...
...MAYBE A STEADY DIET OF THESE...
FLICK
...WILL HELP YOUR BODY FIX ITSELF UP SO YOU CAN GET OUTTA HERE SOON!
AT LEAST CALL IT THE "SOUL BUN!" THAT SOUNDS BETTER!
EH...? IN ENGLISH ...?
QUIET DOWN IN THERE!
I'M TELLING YOU, "SOUL" IS BETTER!
I LIKES "TAMASHII"!!
SOUL!
TAMASHII...
TAMASHII!

THIS KIND OF ACTION IS DANGEROUS SO DON'T IMITATE IT.
TAP
OWWW
WHERE DID NABESHIMA-SAN GO?
I JUST WENT TO WASH MY HANDS...
UM...
EH...?
HE SAID HE WAS GONNA GO BUY ANOTHER POPSICLE SINCE HIS WAS ALL GOOEY.
MINE WAS FINE...
ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE EN-CHAN'S
HUH...?

TOGETHER.
...SO?
DID YOU TALK TO YOUR OLD BAKER BOYFRIEND?
BOYFRIEND... IT SOUNDS WEIRD WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SAYS IT
NO...
ANYWAY... ...HE OUGHTA BE BACK SOON.
HUH! WHY DO I HAVE TO BE LEFT ALONE WITH YOU OF ALL PEOPLE?!
HEY, THAT FACE IS CUTE!
YOU CAN TALK TO THE GUY.
AFTER ALL, NOBODY FROM YOUR "LIFETIME" IS GONNA RECOGNIZE YOU, NOT WITH THE NEW FACE AND BODY G.S.G. GAVE YOU.
BUT SEEING HIM DID GIVE ME A JOLT.
HMPH ...

SUN BAKERY
NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME AGAIN
JUST REMEMBER.. IF HE FIGURES OUT YOUR IDENTITY...
...OR YOU TRY AND START A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM...
SUN BAKERY
MY BODY WAS WEAK...
...SO WE COULDN'T GO ANYWHERE TOGETHER.
AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
CLINIC

NO PROBLEM MAKING CONTACT...
...AS A "PERFECT STRANGER."
FWIP
!
ALMOST ALL OF US GO THROUGH IT, Y'KNOW.
MOST LEARN THEIR LESSON THE FIRST TIME, THOUGH, AND STAY AWAY FROM THEIR FORMER WHATEVERS AFTER THAT.
GIVE THIS BACK TO HIM.

TIME, FOR ME...
I CAN'T GO BACK...
...AND I CAN'T CATCH UP.
...REALLY STOPPED THERE.
YOU'VE COME BACK...
...TO RETURN THE UMBRELLA?
THUMP
GASP!
NOT GOOD
HAH?
BLUSH
... HUFF ...
YES ...
THANK YOU ...

...OH.

"TAMASHII BUN!"
I MADE 'EM MYSELF, BUT ACTUALLY, NOBODY'S BOUGHT ANY SO FAR, SO I'M KINDA WORRIED...
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
...UM...
THEY ARE CUTE! REALLY CUTE!
AH... ER...

THESE...
AH...
...SO I CALL IT THE "SOUL BUN!"
YAY!
CUTE, RIGHT?
OUR NEWEST ITEM, FROM TODAY AS A MATTER OF FACT!
IT'S SHAPED LIKE THE SPIRIT OF A DEAD PERSON...

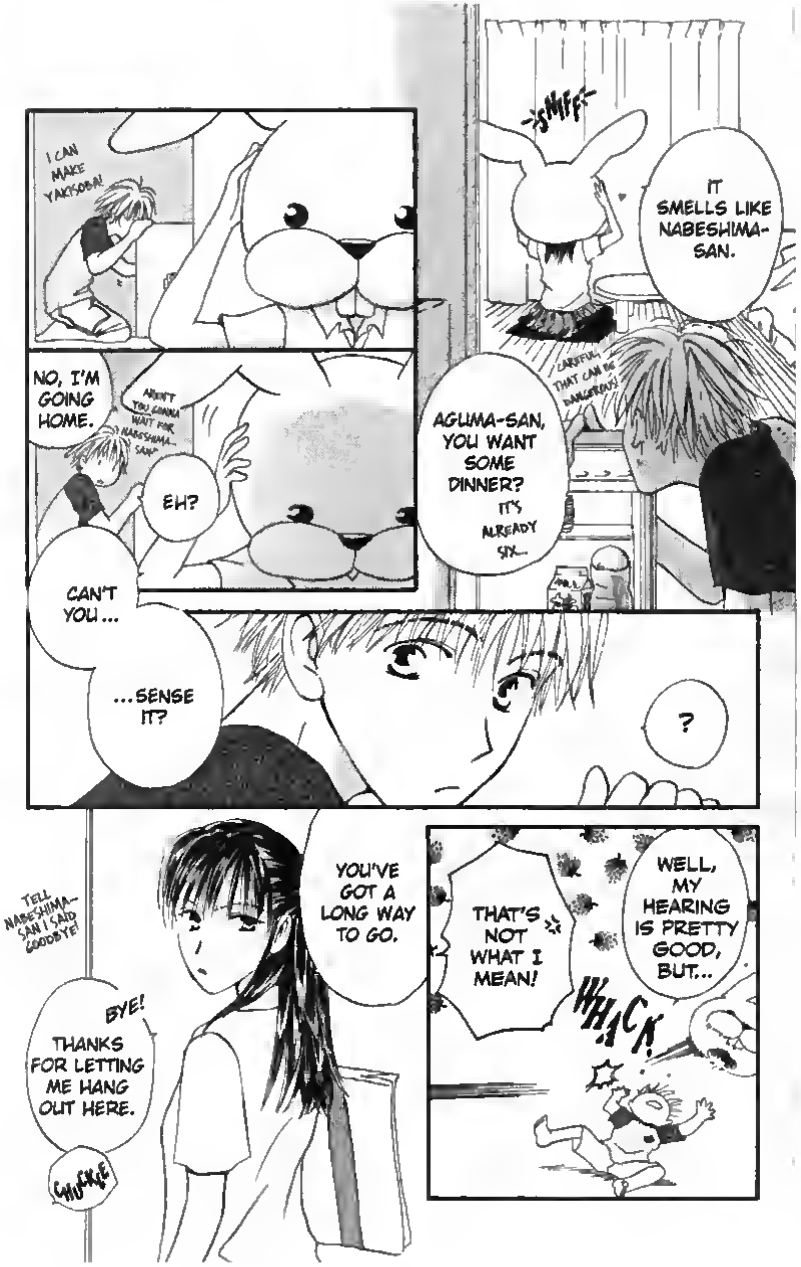
GOOD JOB.
I CAN'T GO BACK...

CAN I BUY JUST ONE?
SUPERMARKET
AKA DOMU SWEETS
CHING
DID YOU FINALLY SELL ONE OF YOUR "SOUL BUNS?"
WELL, WELL...
TO COMMEMORATE THE OCCASION TELL ME WHAT YOUR FIRST CUSTOMER WAS LIKE
UM
YOU KNOW, I CAN'T REMEMBER...
EH...

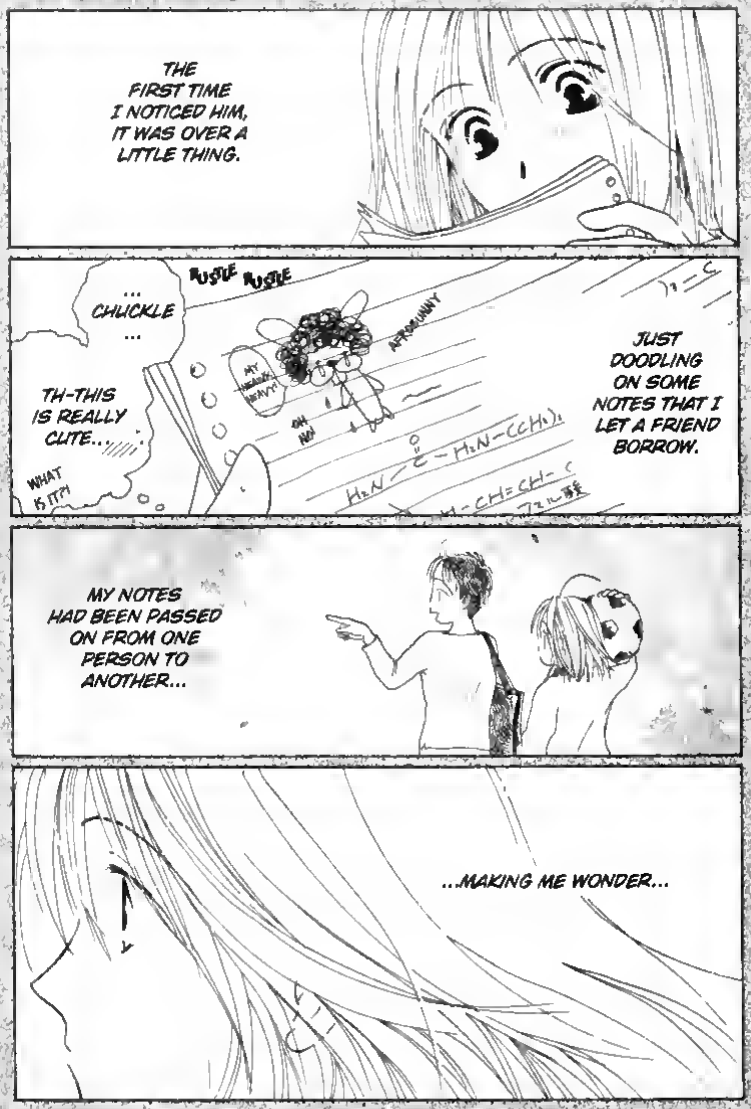
SURE.
...FROM FAR AWAY.
ME NEITHER.
AND I DON'T WANNA MEET AGAIN.
... PRAYING ...

... BUT I KNOW I WAS THERE.
AND NOW ...
...MY FORM HAS CHANGED.
NABESHIMA-SAN...
HAVE YOU MET SOMEONE YOU WERE CLOSE TO AFTER...?
BUT MY HEART IS STILL BACK THERE...
...AND I CAN'T CATCH UP...

SEE YOU LATER!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT!
SLAM!
ALL RIGHT...
.....
AH! SORRY!
HEY, YOU'VE ACTUALLY BEEN POLITE TODAY! "THANKS FOR LETTING ME HANG OUT" WOW
WHAT?!
WHO EVER SAID I WASN'T POLITE?!
HO-!
SNATCH!
I KNEW I FELT SOMETHING IN THERE!


I CAN MAKE YAKISOBA!
NO, I'M GOING HOME.
AREN'T YOU GONNA WAIT FOR NABESHIMA-SAN?
EH?
CAN'T YOU...
...SENSE IT?
?
SNIFF
IT SMELLS LIKE NABESHIMA-SAN.
CAREFUL, THAT CAN BE DANGEROUS!
AGUMA-SAN, YOU WANT SOME DINNER? IT'S ALREADY SIX...
TELL NABESHIMA-SAN I SAID GOODBYE!
BYE!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME HANG OUT HERE.
CHUCKLE
YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
WELL, MY HEARING IS PRETTY GOOD, BUT...
WHACK!

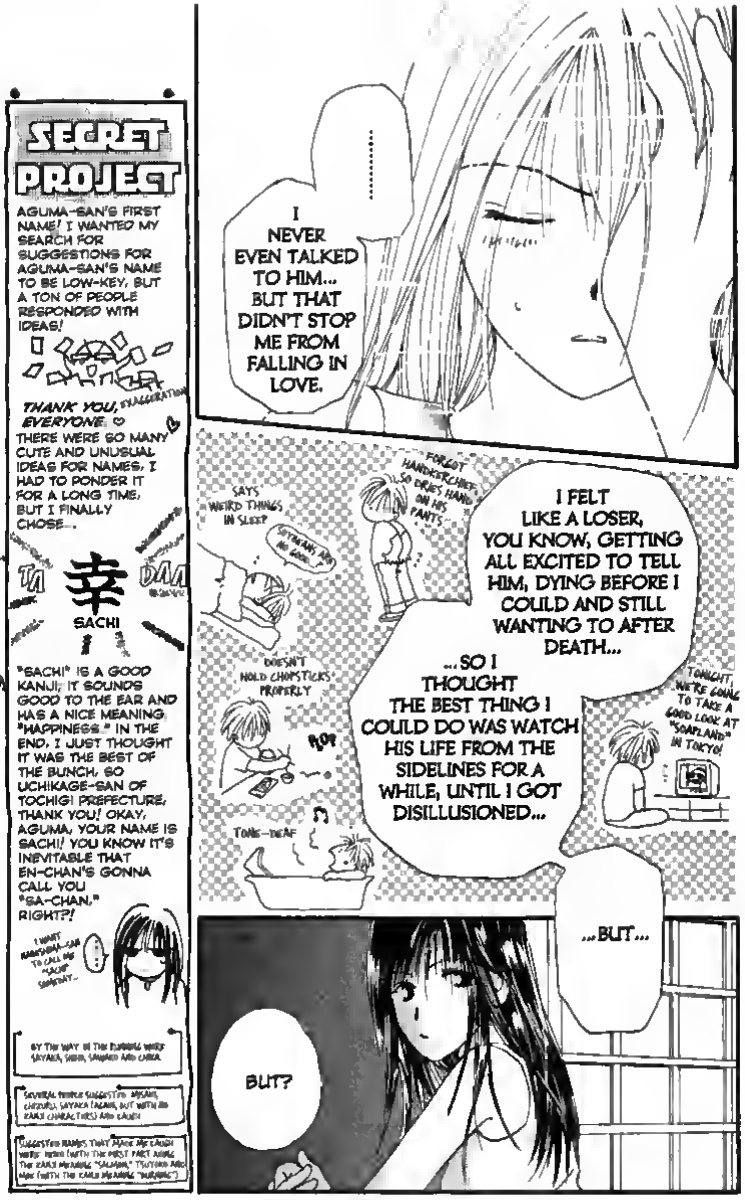
OMUKAE DESU.


THE FIRST TIME I NOTICED HIM, IT WAS OVER A LITTLE THING.
...CHUCKLE...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
TH-THIS IS REALLY CUTE...
WHAT IS IT?
JUST DOODLING ON SOME NOTES THAT I LET A FRIEND BORROW.
MY NOTES HAD BEEN PASSED ON FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER...
...MAKING ME WONDER...

YOU GOT BUSINESS WITH ME?
OR WITH HIM?
BALD "WIG"
BERMUDA SHORTS STYLE UNDERPANTS AND A STOMACH BAND
...NABESHIMA-SAN IN THIS MONTH'S COSTUME!
I'M DYING TO SEE...

SIGHHH
I DON'T GET IT...
DON'T GET WHAT?!
AGUMA
...I DON'T THINK SO.
MY CRUSH ON HIM WAS SECRET...
...BUT I WAS ACHING TO TELL HIM.
OH, SHUT UP! I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO CRITIQUE MY TASTE IN MEN!!
I LOVE GIRLS!
AGUMA VISION
HOW ANYBODY COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM AT FIRST SIGHT?!
NOT TO MENTION HOW YOU THOUGHT HE WAS MY BOYFRIEND FOR A SECOND!
ANYBODY WOULD MAKE THAT MISTAKE! AFTER ALL, IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF YOU IN HIS APARTMENT!
DOES HE KNOW ABOUT YOU?

"WHO IS THIS GUY?"
お迎えです。
OMUKAEDESU.


SECRET PROJECT
AGUMA-SAN'S FIRST NAME! I WANTED MY SEARCH FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR AGUMA-SAN'S NAME TO BE LOW-KEY, BUT A TON OF PEOPLE RESPONDED WITH IDEAS!
THANK YOU, EXAGGERATION EVERYONE. ♡
THERE WERE SO MANY CUTE AND UNUSUAL IDEAS FOR NAMES, I HAD TO PONDER IT FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I FINALLY CHOSE...
SACHI
"SACHI" IS A GOOD KANJI; IT SOUNDS GOOD TO THE EAR AND HAS A NICE MEANING, "HAPPINESS." IN THE END, I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS THE BEST OF THE BUNCH. GO UCHIKAGE-SAN OF TOCHIGI PREFECTURE, THANK YOU! OKAY, AGUMA, YOUR NAME IS SACHI! YOU KNOW IT'S INEVITABLE THAT EN-CHAN'S GONNA CALL YOU "SA-CHAN," RIGHT?!
I WANT NAKAJIMA-KUN TO CALL ME "SACHI" SOMEDAY...
BY THE WAY, IN THE RUNNING WERE SAYAKA, YUKIE, SAWAKO AND CHIKA.
SEVERAL PEOPLE SUGGESTED MIKAMI, CHIZURU, SAYAKA TACHIBANA, BUT WITH SIX KANJI CHARACTERS AND EACH
SUGGESTED NAMES THAT MADE ME LAUGH WERE: HERO (WITH THE FIRST PART MEANING THE KANJI MEANING "SAMURAI," "TUTORS AND MORE (WITH THE CHILD MEANING "NURSING")
I NEVER EVEN TALKED TO HIM... BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM FALLING IN LOVE.
I FELT LIKE A LOSER, YOU KNOW, GETTING ALL EXCITED TO TELL HIM, DYING BEFORE I COULD AND STILL WANTING TO AFTER DEATH...
...SO I THOUGHT THE BEST THING I COULD DO WAS WATCH HIS LIFE FROM THE SIDELINES FOR A WHILE, UNTIL I GOT DISILLUSIONED...
SAYS WEIRD THINGS IN SLEEP
"GOTCHAH, ARE WE GOOD..."
FORGET HANDKERCHIEF, SO DRIES HAND ON HIS PANTS
DOESN'T HOLD CHOPSTICKS PROPERLY
POP
TONE-DEAF
TONIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT "SNAPLAND" IN TOKYO!
...BUT...
BUT?

WELL, I DON'T THINK STALKING IS THE WAY TO GO ABOUT TYING IT UP...
AND THANKS TO THAT, I'M LEFT WITH A LOOSE END THAT I JUST CAN'T LET GO OF!
AHAHAHA! IT'S SO PATHETIC IT'S FUNNY!
ZOOMING ALONG
HOOF HOOF
SO ONE DAY, I GOT UP THE NERVE TO APPROACH HIM AND TELL HIM HOW I FELT...
CRASH!
I'M NOT STALKING HIM! WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME?! YOU REALLY ARE TSUTSUMI-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND, AREN'T YOU?! ADMIT IT!
HOW MANY TIME DO I GOTTA SAY I'M NOT?! THINK WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME, BUT FOR CRIPES SAKES, DON'T THINK THAT!!
SAME TEMPERAMENT
-HUFF-
-PANT-

I KNOW IT AND YET, HERE I AM, OBSESSING ABOUT HIM... HAHAHA...
...I'LL HELP YOU HAVE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CHISATO...
HUMP
TO-MORROW...
...THERE'S FIREWORKS DISPLAY.
WHAT?
NICE STARS
IF YOU GO ALONG WITH MY CONDITIONS...
ONE DAY LATER
BRRRING BRRING
Y'ELLO?!

BUT INSTEAD...
...THE OPPOSITE HAPPENED. I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM EVEN MORE...
I MEAN, CAN YOU IMAGINE A DEAD PERSON SAYING THEY HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU?
LET'S FACE IT, IT WOULD ONLY BE A BURDEN TO TSUTSUMI-KUN...
...TO SEE YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL?
NO, THAT'S OKAY!
...HE SHOULD BE ABLE...

...TO LET ME USE YOUR BODY?
A YUKATA
DON'T LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH!
NOW, REPEAT WHAT I SAID BEFORE!
!!
HAS THE TALENT IT INHERENTLY HER SPIRIT FROM HER BODY
"I'M AGUMA, A PART-TIME WORKER FOR G.S.G. I LOVE NABESHIMA-SAN...
GOOD
REMEMBER, FIRST TO LAST, YOU HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE ME.
THE POINT IS FOR YOU TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GOING TO SEE FIREWORKS WITH A GUY AND THAT'S ALL!
SO ABSOLUTELY NO GETTING INTO ROMANTIC MODE!! CONSIDER IT THE ULTIMATE TABOO!!
AH!
THERE HE IS!
KYAAA!
OKAY, I'LL FOLLOW YOU FROM BEHIND.

IT'S WORK, I TELL YOU!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET AT THE SUMMIT OF THE WALKING PATH AT TOSEN PARK...
...BUT I'M IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW, SO WE'LL GO TOGETHER! SO COME ON OUT!!
CLICK!!

IN THE MIDDLE OF CHANGING CLOTHES

GOOD JOB, CHISA-CHI!
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY, KUMA-CHI...
A ABBREVIATION OF AGUMA

HUFF HUFF
I TOLD HIM...
EVEN THOUGH MY HANDS WERE SHAKING...

WHY WOULD AGUMA-SAN CALL ME?
FOR THAT MATTER, WHY WOULD SHE COME BY...
...TO PICK ME UP?
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE FIREWORKS TONIGHT AT TOSEN PARK.
AH, WHATEVER.

YOU LOOK CUTE IN IT.
EH?!
BLUSH
HUH. GOING WITH A YUKATA WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.
YOU SEEM... NICER THAN USUAL...
YEAH, THAT'S IT.
I GUESS IT'S THE YUKATA*...
...THAT MAKES YOU SEEM A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY.
UMM... UH...
AH!
SHOOT!
EH..?
WHY IS YOUR FACE TURNING RED?
YESTERDAY, RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT...
...NABESHIMA-SAN AND YUZUKO-CHAN CAME BACK.
...I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THIS IS GOING ALREADY!
A-A-ACTUALLY, I DRANK A LITTLE SAKE BEFORE COMING.
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO MUCH...
YOU'RE A MINOR! YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK!
HAHA HAHA HAHA...
TAILING THEM

* YUKATA - INFORMAL COTTON KIMONO FOR THE SUMMER

GONE?
AH, BUT I CAN'T LET MYSELF... HUH?
JUST HEARING IT MAKES ME FEEL WARM INSIDE...
DIDN'T YOU SEE 'EM ON THE WAY? SEE NABESHIMA-GAN'S COSTUME? IT WAS WILD!
UH-UH...
JUST UP AND TO MY LEFT...
HIS VOICE...
I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA CRY...
SHOOTING GALLERY
AH! THERE HE IS! HE'S FAST!
BANG
ALREADY ON HIS SECOND ROUND
FLUTTER
GONG
.....
WHEE!
WHEE!
SQUIRT
WHAP
SPLAT
AAAH!
RUFFLE RUFFLE
I'M SORRY...

WHEEE! WHEEE!
PROBABLY GOING TO DO THE SAME THING TO TWO OR THREE MORE PEOPLE...
HAVEN'T BEEN LUCKY YET!
YOU WANNA GIVE IT A TRY, TOO, AGUMA?
LET'S SAY IF YOU HIT SOMETHING BEFORE ME, I'LL TREAT YOU TO A SNOW CONE!
...THE MORE I'M FALLING FOR HIM.
...I'M SORRY, KUMA-CHI
THE MORE I'M WITH HIM...
YOU'RE ON!

WHAT A CUTE COUPLE!
DON'T YOU THINK, MOTHER?
HOHHO! WHY, CERTAINLY!
DADDY
GULP!
THE COSTUME TEASED AT THE END OF THE PREVIOUS EPISODE THIS MONTH'S THEME AT HOME.
MY WORD IS MY BOND
YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT CAN GET!
SO WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO...?!
MORON! I'VE WARNED YOU AGAINST DOING THINGS LIKE THIS!
I'M GONNA GET IN TROUBLE OVER IT!!
I'M SORRY!
KYAAA!
CONTINUING TO SPY, DESPITE THE SCOLDING
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE...
BE-CAUSE ...
HERE, SHOTGUN!

OH!
WHAT I'M FEELING INSIDE...
YOU OWE ME A SNOW CONE!
...MIGHT BE SPILLING OVER TO THE OUTSIDE.
I'D HATE FOR NABESHIMA-SAN TO SEE THAT...
SIGH
... SHOULD WE HEAD OVER?
THE FIREWORKS'LL BE STARTING SOON..
AT THE SUMMIT OF THE NEARBY PEAK... TOMO
YEAH.
AH!
NOTHING ...
...RIGHT?

CD 2.

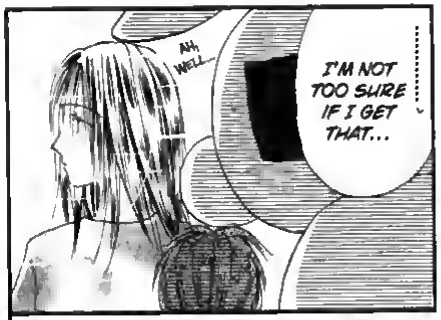
WELL, I'VE FINISHED THE SCENARIO FOR THE CD AND BELIEVE ME, IT'S REALLY WILD!

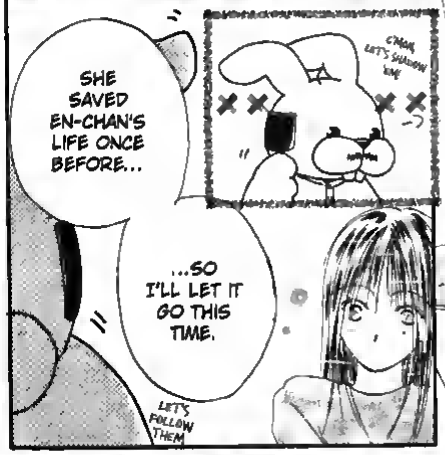
AS FOR THE CHARACTERS' VOICES, IT'S STILL UNDECIDED AT THE MOMENT, BUT I BET BY THE TIME THIS VOLUME IS OUT, THE VOICE RECORDING WILL ALREADY BE DONE...

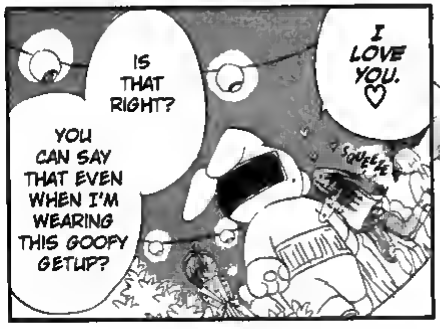
ANYWAY, I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH VOICE TALENTS, SO TRYING TO DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE IN IT IS TOUGH WORK. AFTER ALL, THEY'RE ALL GOOD. BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'M WASTING TIME BEING INDECISIVE..

A MOUNTAIN OF DRAMA CDS AND ANIME VIDEOS

I'VE BEEN PUTTING ON ANIME AND JUST LISTENING TO THE VOICES, FOR EXAMPLE...







...TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
BOOM
DID I JUST BLOCK YOUR VIEW?
AH! SORRY!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THEY'RE HUGE! OOOH!

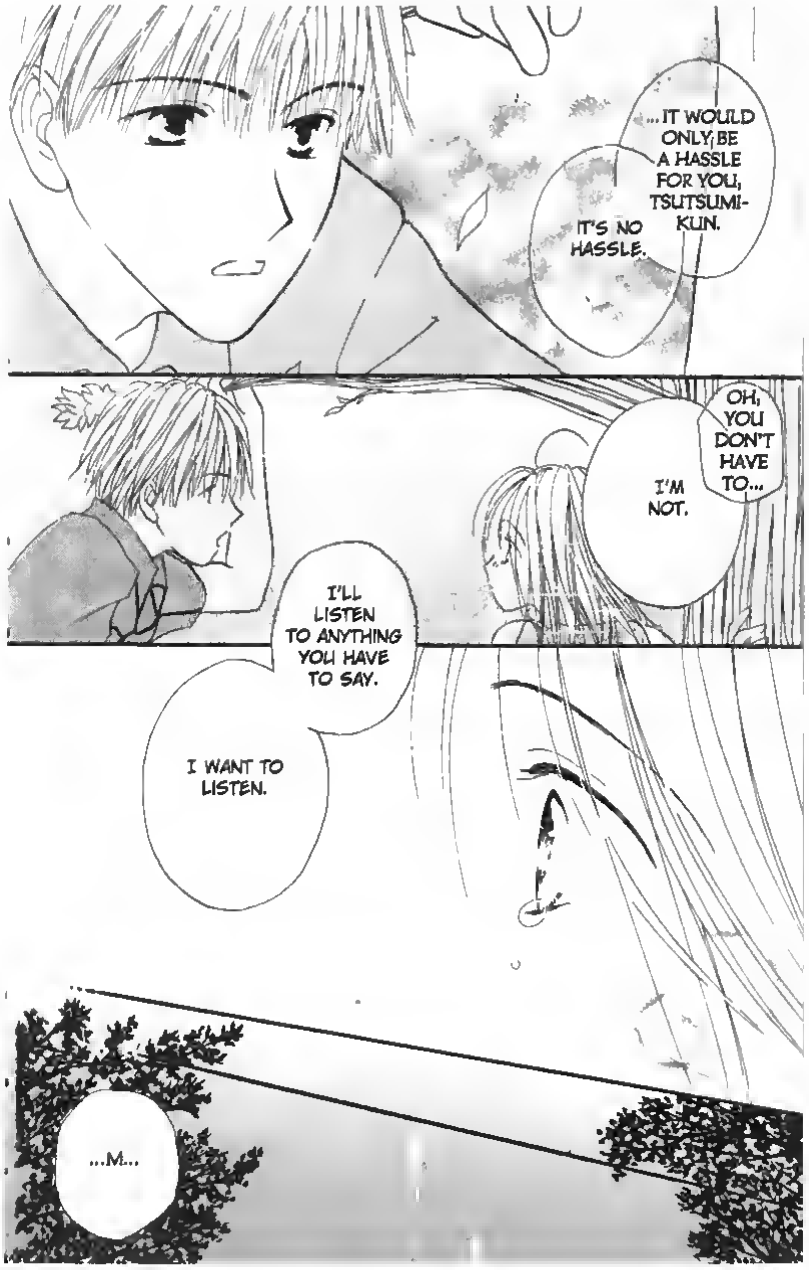
AH! THERE SHE IS.
CAN'T BELIEVE HOW LESS TRAINED WE ARE.
FUSHU
HUH? WHERE'S CHISA-CHI?
BOOM
BOOM
PAT
PAT
PAT
SORRY...
BOOM

NO!
DID AGUMA-SAN...
...GIVE YOU PERMISSION?
HE...HE KNOWS?!
EH?
THUMP
...ARE YOU DOING THIS?
AAAA

RUSTLE
ULP
RUSTLE
Y'KNOW ...
...ALONG WITH THE WORDS THAT I COULDN'T TELL HIM...
SOB
...YOU COULD'VE JUST TOLD ME FROM THE BEGINNING.
OWWW
MASTER OF TENACITY
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS?
SNEAK
RUSTLE
WHOAAA
WHY NOT?
I THOUGHT ...
I...
I HAD TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS BECAUSE I COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW I FELT!

HEY...
WHUMP
SLUMP
AH!
...SECRETLY MAKE A MEMORY, THEN GO ON MY WAY...
THE PLAN WAS TO...
SNAP
WAIT!
RUSTLE
GOOD JOB. YOU MADE IT THROUGH SAFELY, AND THAT'S WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE!! THAT IDIOT!
RIGHT, MOTHER?
YES, I SUPPOSE SO
PTTH
BACK IN HER OWN BODY

...MY NAME IS CHISATO OGAWA.
I LOVE YOU, TSUTSUMI-KUN.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT ...
... BEFORE I DIED.

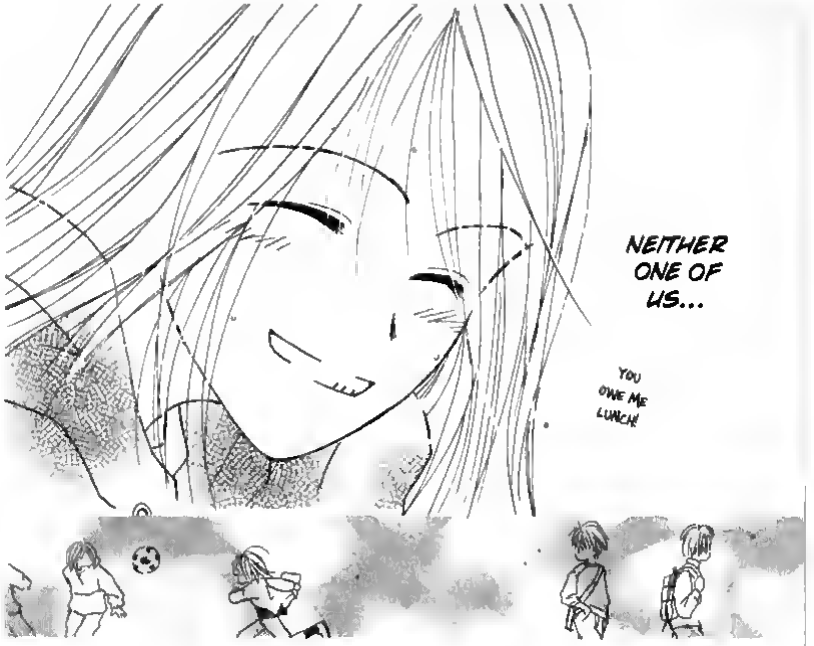

...IT WOULD ONLY BE A HASSLE FOR YOU, TSUTSUMI-KUN.
IT'S NO HASSLE.
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
I'M NOT.
I'LL LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY.
I WANT TO LISTEN.
...M...

THANK YOU.

A CHALLENGE ACCEPTED
3
4
5...
DING
6
5
4
FLASH
"WHO IS THIS GIRL?"

THANK YOU...
THE FIRST TIME I NOTICED HER...
DING
AH! IT'S BUZZING BECAUSE OF ME?!
AHAHAHAHA
...WAS OVER A LITTLE THING.
YOU'RE ON!
THE SIXTH FLOOR, RIGHT?!
CHISATO, IF YOU TAKE THE STAIRS AND BEAT THE ELEVATOR, LUNCH IS ON ME!
SHUT
NO WAY!
FORGET ABOUT IT!

...BUT EVEN SO...
...BEING ABLE TO HEAR WORDS... FEELINGS...
...EXPRESSED...
...THAT WERE FATED TO HAVE BEEN BURIED FOREVER... YOU'D THINK A GUY WOULD FEEL FORTUNATE, RIGHT?
...SORRY.
CAN I BORROW YOUR SHOULDER? I THINK I'M GONNA CRY
STUMP
IF YOU MUST... THIS ONE TIME ONLY!
AFRO?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW?!?
HEY!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT HAD THE AFRO!!



...FOUND OUT...

...OR HEARD ANY MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER...

BACKGROUND SCENE OF NO IMPORTANCE 2

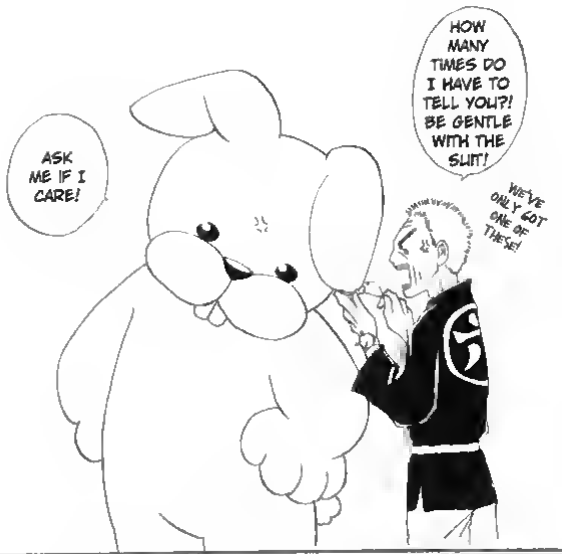
CHISA-CHI BELONGED TO HER UNIVERSITY'S SOCCER CLUB.

SHE NEGLECTED HER MANAGERIAL DUTIES REGARDING THE CLUB AND INSTEAD DEVOTED HERSELF TO HEADING THE BALL...

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE. ♡
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?
EN-CHAN
I'M WORKIN' AT MY PART-TIME JOB!
YEP!
I'M GONNA WATCH A CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW AT MY FOLKS' HOUSE...
TSUDA-KUN
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL YOUR CHOICE OF CAKE AND COFFEE OR TEA CHRISTMAS COOKIE INCLUDED!!
¥999 TEN

BACKGROUND SCENE OF NO IMPORTANCE 3

BUNNY SUIT MAINTENANCE IS PERFORMED WEEKLY BY MASTER CRAFTSMAN MR. ROKUSUKE AOYAGI.



IT'S FINALLY HERE!
CHRISTMAS THE 1ST MONTH!
THAT'S FINE!
...ALL RIGHT. NOT THAT I'M UP FOR ANYTHING, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO DO...
SIGH...
...AND I GUESS...
I JUST REMEMBERED! I'M GOING TO FLORIDA FROM TODAY THROUGH NEW YEAR'S! TO VISIT MY GIRLFRIEND, NANCY!
AH! WAIT!
JINGLE BELLS!
JINGLE BELLS!
YOU'RE A LOUSY LIAR, KID!

IF YOU GET LONELY, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME BACK!
CHRISTMAS, HUH.
THE ONLY ONES WHO GET EXCITED OVER IT ARE KIDS AND A SELECT FEW ADULTS...
IT'S HARDLY DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER DAY...
HERE, HAVE SOME COFFEE...
AS MUCH AS YOU CAN DRINK, ON THE HOUSE. MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU.
SYMPATHY
PLOP PLOP PLOP PLOP
THANKS
IT'S CHRISTMAS. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS?
NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS!
TCH! NO GETTIN' AWAY FROM IT!

...FOR JUST ONE MOMENT, THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD FEELINGS FOR ME... AND VICE VERSA.
EN-CHAN...
SIGH
GYAAA
FLIP
THANKS TO YOU, I AM.
CUTE PANTIES!
RUSTLE
WOW! IF THAT'S THE KINDA ENERGY WE CAN GET OUTTA YOU, WE'LL SHORTEN THE SKIRT EVEN MORE! THE TAILORING'S FREE!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

LOOKING INTO THE "CAMERA"...
HOW HAVE ALL YOU READERS BEEN?
...IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE LAST TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT!
ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP A LOTTA TIMES AFTER THAT...
SINCE THE FIREWORKS RIGHT?
CON-SIDER. .
ALRIGHT!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE REALLY BACKED UP AROUND THE HOLIDAYS...
SO PLEASE GIVE US A HAND! PLEASSSE?!
...MY BATTERIES RE-CHARGED.
AT THE END OF SUMMER...
...BUT IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH TOOK A NOSEDIVE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
REALLY?
SO I DECIDED TO LET YOU HAVE A BREAK TO RECHARGE YOUR BATTERIES.

CD 3.

...AND I THINK THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT IT FOR NOW. REMEMBER, IT'S STILL IN THE PREP STAGE. I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF GETTING THE STORY FROM PRINT TO AN AUDIO FORMAT IS TRYING TO GET THE IMPACT OF THE BUNNY ACROSS.

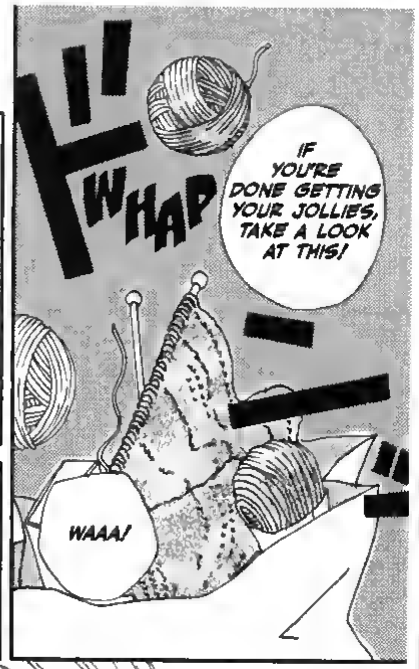
ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST IS GETTING TO HEAR WELL-KNOWN VOICE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES PERFORM THE "OMUKAE" ROLES AT THE END OF THE DAY, THOUGH, I JUST HOPE IT TURNS OUT TO BE A FUN CD...

BONUS TRACK

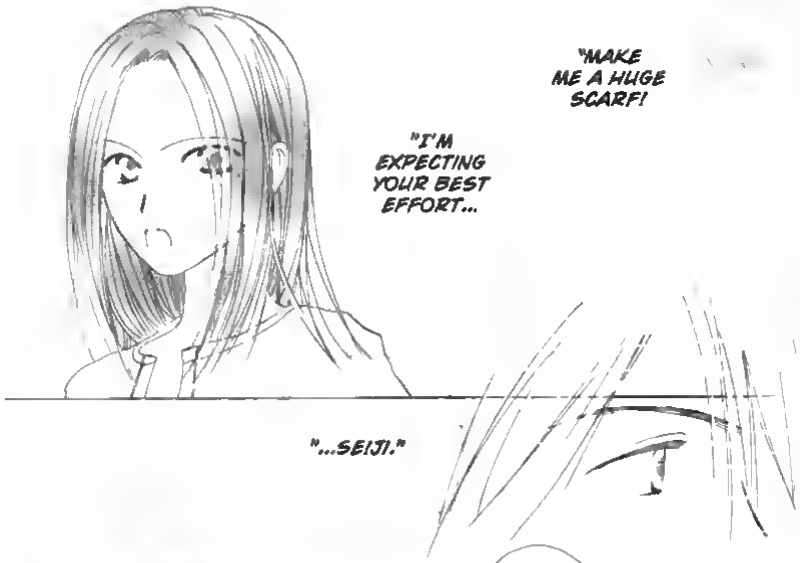
MECA TANAKA RECITAL

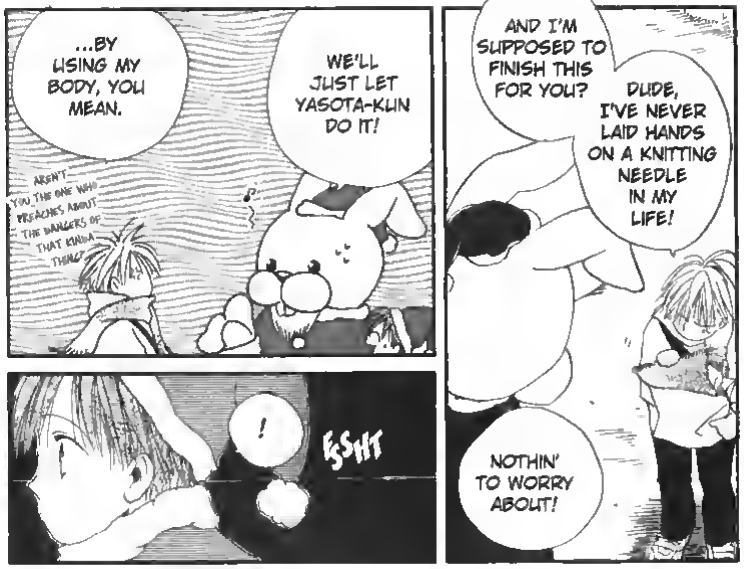
JUST KIDDING!

HARD AT WORK!
SINCE THERE'S A DEMAND FOR MY HOMEMADE GOODS, ESPECIALLY AROUND CHRISTMAS TIME...
...I'D BEEN WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK FOR DAYS... ...WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR MY DOZING OFF BEHIND THE WHEEL...AND WELL, HERE I AM...
THERE WAS JUST ONE PROJECT I LEFT UNDONE...
...A SPECIAL REQUEST BY AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
"I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT..."
"...FOR HALF-PRICE."
"...ALL RIGHT."



"YOU CAN COMPARE ME TO JAPAN'S CELEB KNIT-MASTER, THE "MASTER OF THE HEART," KOJI HIROSUE
KNIT MASTER
I ALWAYS USED TO WATCH HIS SHOW, "THE KNITTING HOUR."
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT ON THE STREET, THEY CALL ME THE "PRINCE OF YARN."
OUR SUBJECT IS SEIJI YASOTA-SAN, A 21-YEAR-OLD COLLEGE STUDENT.
...BUT I THINK I'LL JUST CALL HIM YASOTA-SAN.
"P OF T" FOR SHORT
THE PRINCE OF YARN, YEAH, I CAN SEE IT...
NICE WORK, HUH?

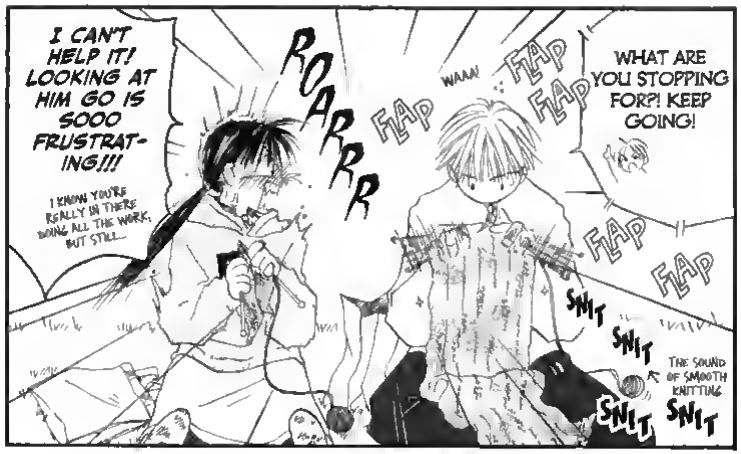

"MAKE ME A HUGE SCARF!
"I'M EXPECTING YOUR BEST EFFORT...
"...SEIJI."


...BY USING MY BODY, YOU MEAN.
WE'LL JUST LET YASOTA-KUN DO IT!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO PREACHES ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THAT KINDA THING?
!
EEK!!
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO FINISH THIS FOR YOU?
DUDE, I'VE NEVER LAID HANDS ON A KNITTING NEEDLE IN MY LIFE!
NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT!

COME ON, YUZUKO!
GOTTA BE DONE BY TODAY, HUH...?
THIS A CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
FIGURES.
THAT'S RIGHT. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS...
NOW, BEFORE WE GET STARTED, COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR AND CALL MY APPRENTICE?
HUH?
...YOUR APPRENTICE?
SHE WAS HERE, BUT SUDDENLY DUCKED INTO THE BUSHES...
RUSTLE
WHOA!
...AH! THERE SHE IS!
CRACK
WE'LL BE BACK AT DUSK.

...IS IT'S WAY, WAY TOO SHORT TO BE A SCARF.
AAAH
TODAY'S THE 24TH
...I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO BEALITIFUL STITCHING LIKE THIS!
SHINKEE
IF I HADN'T GOTTEN ADVICE FROM THE KNITTING MASTER HERE, WHO HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY...
BUT IT WAS TURNING OUT TO BE DISASTER!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU USING A NET MADE OF EGGS?! GET YOURSELF ONE MADE OF RUBBER!
ALSO, USE YARN THAT'LL BE EASIER TO WORK WITH AND DIFFERENT-SIZED NEEDLES!
NABESHIMA-SAN...
MMM.. THE ONLY PROBLEM...
MM?
WE HAVEN'T SEEN AGUMA-SAN FOR A WHILE, HAVE WE?
OVER THE CLOUDS PARKING AREA
CUSTOMIZED FOR CHRISTMAS
I WONDER IF SHE'S LONELY...
MMM...

5
LONG TIME NO SEE!
YO, "GRASSHOPPER!"
YO!
I DON'T THINK SO...
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE FOR HIM?
GULP
I THOUGHT, HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO MAKE A SCARF?
NABESHIMA-SAN DIDN'T NOTICE I WAS THERE?


I CAN'T HELP IT! LOOKING AT HIM GO IS SOOO FRUSTRATING!!!
I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY IN THERE DOING ALL THE WORK, BUT STILL...
ROARRR
WAAA!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
WHAT ARE YOU STOPPING FOR?! KEEP GOING!
FLAP FLAP FLAP
SNIT SNIT SNIT
THE SOUND OF SMOOTH KNITTING

WHILE WE'RE AT IT...
...DO ME A FAVOR...
...AND OPEN THAT BROWN PAPER BAG?
PUFF

STILL...
...I'M NOT USED TO WORKING WITH SOMEBODY ELSE'S HANDS
PRIK
OOG!

THE ATMOSPHERE OF "ARTIST" AT WORK
NIL
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!
WAAA! HE JUST STABBED MY FINGER!
...HOW ABOUT TAKING A LITTLE BREAK?
HMPH

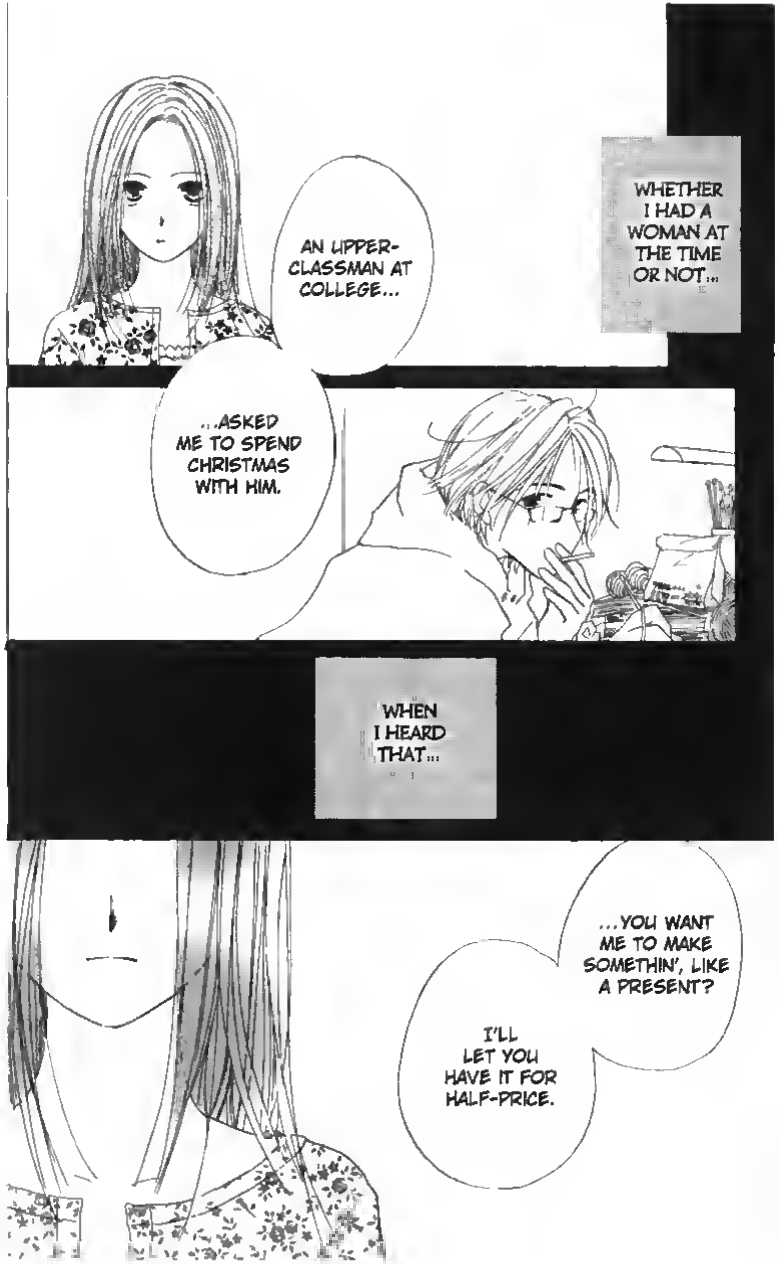
I THINK I'VE HAD MORE THAN MY SHARE OF HER THESE PAST COUPLE YEARS. COME ON!
I WANNA GET WORK DONE NOW SO I CAN TAKE NEW YEAR'S OFF!
BONK
OWWW!
THAT HURT..
A REALLY WARM DAY, DESPITE BEING CHRISTMAS

.....
SNIT SNIT SNIT SNIT
SNIT SNIT SNIT
SNEK SNEK

BREAKING UP...HARD TO DO.
SOMEBODY GOT SLAPPED UPSIDE THE HEAD!
SNICKER
WHATS-AMATTER, GET FRESH AGAIN?
OOF!
HITOMI... AREN'T YOU GETTIN' A LITTLE OLD TO BE COMING IN HERE THROUGH THE WINDOW?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THIS IS THE NEAREST WAY IN! AH!
EVER SINCE I COULD REMEMBER ... ...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS REFUSE WHEN A GIRL TELLS YOU SHE'LL "PAY WITH HER BODY!"
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE HOLDING A GUN TO YOUR HEAD!
THAT REEKS! KNOCK IT OFF!
'CAUSE WHEN THEY FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, IT'S A PAIN IN THE BUTT TO BRUSH 'EM OFF!
FOOO
KOFF
NEVER GET INVOLVED WITH A CUSTOMER!
AH, I COULD MAKE ONE FOR YOU ANY OLD TIME...
...AS LONG AS YOU CAN PAY FOR IT.
YOU'D CHARGE ME?!
WHETHER I WAS QUIET OR TALKATIVE ...IN A GOOD MOOD OR A LOUSY ONE...
HUH? HOW DOES THIS GO?
... SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE.
I WISH I HAD A SCARF...

AH, I KNOW MY WAY AROUND A CIGARETTE.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE SMOKING TYPE.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD SMOKE...
KEY POINT: 20 YEARS OLD
FOOO
I QUIT A LONG TIME AGO, THOUGH.
A LONG TIME AGO? HOW LONG ARE WE TALKING?
IN THIS INTRO
TOBACCO
PORTABLE ASHTRAY
LIGHTER
AAAAHHH... DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THIS...
GUESS YOU WERE A SMOKER, HUH?
THE GIRL WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR TO ME...
QUIT SMOKING SO MUCH!
"SEIJI..."
OH...
YASOTA-SAN...
WHO PUT IN THE REQUEST FOR YOUR SCARF?

"MAKE ME A HUGE SCARF."
ALL RIGHT...
BUT A COMMISSION IS A COMMISSION.
NOT ONLY WAS THERE MONEY AT STAKE, BUT PRIDE. I DON'T MAKE ANYTHING BUT THE BEST...
...IT FELT LIKE GETTING CLOBBERED BY A WAVE OF MOTION.
... EVEN IF THIS SCARF ...
...IS GONNA GO FROM HER HANDS TO BEING WRAPPED AROUND...
THROB

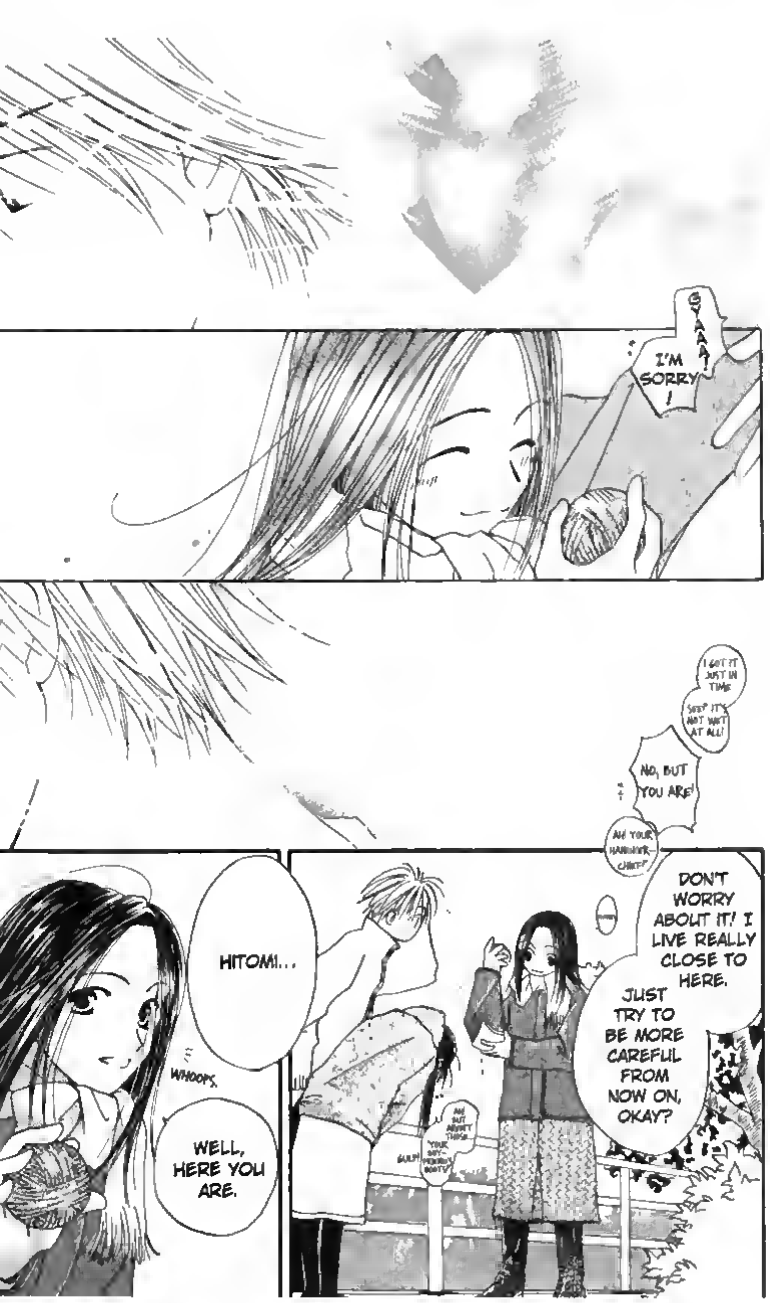

AN UPPER-CLASSMAN AT COLLEGE...
WHETHER I HAD A WOMAN AT THE TIME OR NOT...
...ASKED ME TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH HIM.
WHEN I HEARD THAT...
...YOU WANT ME TO MAKE SOMETHIN', LIKE A PRESENT?
I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT FOR HALF-PRICE.

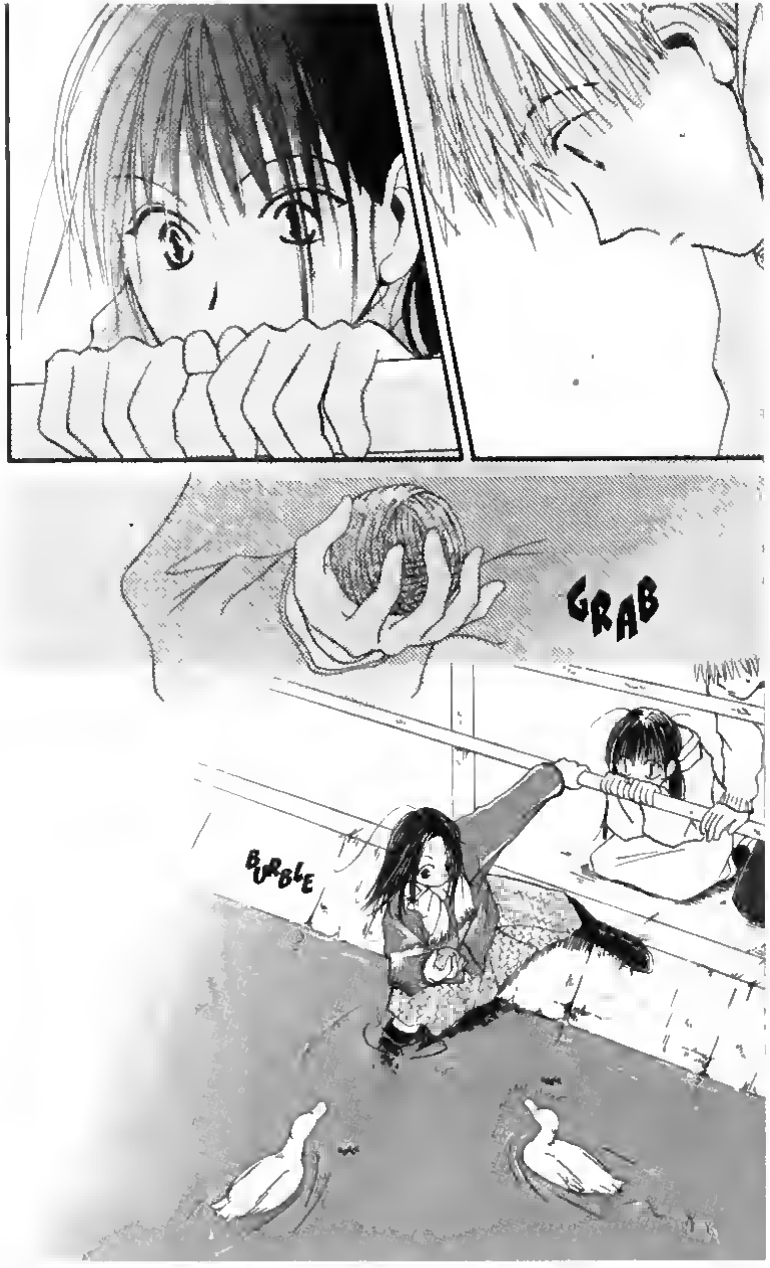
GASP
PRINCE OF YARN?
HERE.
EH?
BUT THESE ARE YOURS...
OH, I CAN FINISH THIS ANYTIME.
THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR...
YES.
ROLL
TO WANT HER
PRINCE?

FLINCH
...SOME GUY'S NECK...
SNAP
KRAK!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW...

AH!
①
②
.....
AH!
③
AAAAAH!!
IT'S HEADING FOR THE POND!
SLOSH

SNAGGED IT BACK!
C'MERE, YOU!
BUMP
THAT'S ...
...EXACTLY WHAT I THOUGHT.
WHOOPS!
I'M SUCH A KLUTZ!
MAKE THAT THREE!
.....
WELL, YOU GOT THAT ROLL BACK...
AT THE COST OF TWO MORE ROLLS!
EMPTY
BUMP
ぽ
BUMP
ぽ
BUMP
BUMP
HOW MANY FELL OUT AGAIN?
THREE, RIGHT...?
ROLL ROLL
PHEW!
THEY GOT STOPPED BY THAT HEDGE.
ROLL ROLL


I'M SORRY!
I GOT IT JUST IN TIME
STOP! IT'S NOT HOT AT ALL!
NO, BUT YOU ARE!
ARE YOUR HANDS OK, CHIE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I LIVE REALLY CLOSE TO HERE.
JUST TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
HITOMI...
WHOOPS.
WELL, HERE YOU ARE.


GRAB
BURBLE

KAW
GULP!
SQUISH
SLUMP
YASOTA-SAN...
KAW
THE CROWS ARE CALLING, TOO...
IT'S GETTIN' COLD OUT HERE. LET'S FINISH UP AT MY PLACE.
FORGET IT...
I DON'T WANT TO FINISH...I WAS SO STUPID...
BUT NOW... SHE'S TOO FAR AWAY TO REEL IN.
I THOUGHT I COULD TELL HER ANYTIME.
AFTER ALL, SHE WAS ALWAYS RIGHT THERE.
...ANYTIME.
I COULD MEET HER...

...STILL HERE, AREN'T YOU, YASOTA-SAN?
THAT MEANS YOU STILL HAVE TIME.
SHIT SHIT SHIT
LAST STAGE!
WE CAN EAT IT WHEN THEY GET THERE
WANNA BUY A CAKE?
I GUESS I WON'T HAVE A PRESENT TO GIVE HIM AFTER ALL

...AND TO HAVE MY EYES OPENED NOW... NOW, WHEN IT'S TOO LATE...
WELL, SHOULD WE GO?
HOW ABOUT YOU, AGUMA-SAN?
I EXPECT NABESHIMA-SAN'S GONNA SHOW UP...
HEY! HEY, WAIT!
YOU'RE...
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
SOME PEOPLE NEVER GET AN EYE-OPENING MOMENT.

WE CAN USE IT TO WRAP UP THE CANDLE...
!
...THAT CAME WITH THE CHRISTMAS CAKE.
BONUS
GREEN
RED
WITH JUST A LITTLE MORE WORK...
UH-HUH...
X'mas PRESENT
APPRENTICE!
LET ME SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT DONE.

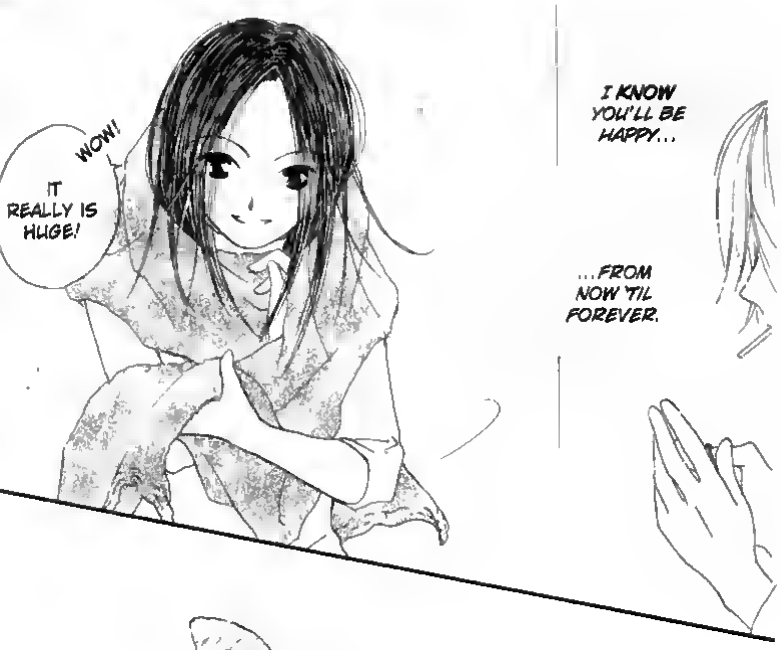
YOU GOT NO GUARANTEE THAT "THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR."
PUFF
SO WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE TO SAY SOMETHING... SAY IT.
MY WAY OF SAYING THANKS FOR LENDING ME YOUR NEEDLES.
...I KNOW, I KNOW
AMAZING! THIS IS JUST DARLING!
THANK YOU! YOU REALLY ARE THE PRINCE OF YARN!

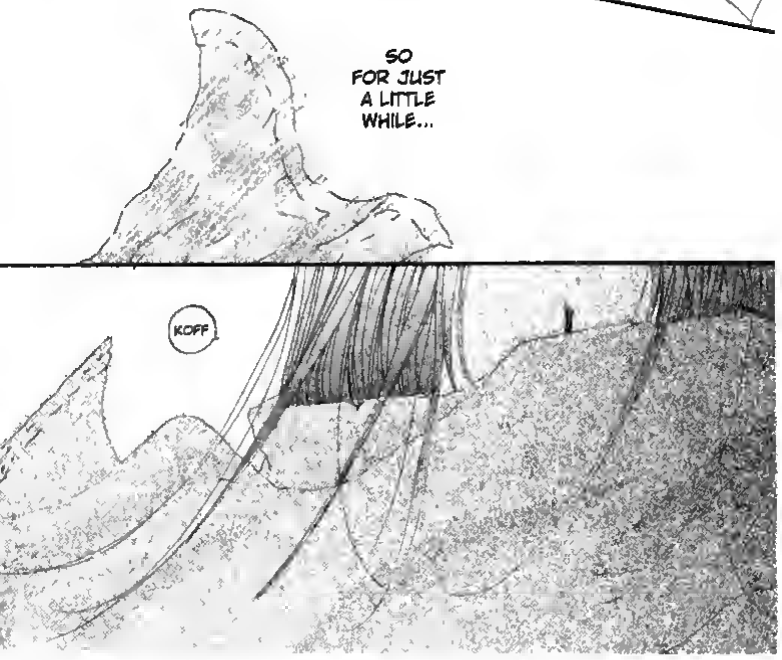
SNAK
ALL RIGHT! THIS SIDE IS DONE, TOO!
"GRASSHOPPER!" SNIP THE PIECE OF YARN DOWN AT THE END THERE!
I CAN'T SEE MY HANDS...
SNAK
LAST SPURT
AND WE HAVE...
I NEED A SMOKE...
OKAY, OKAY...
FINISH!
...A SCARF!
STRANGE SENSE OF UNITY
BANZAI
BANZAI

AH! SORRY ABOUT THAT! BY THE WAY....
...BUT FOR SOME REASON, MY HAND'S NOT LETTING ME.
QUIVER

I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN. BUT DO ME A FAVOR...
...AND DELIVER THIS TO MY CLIENT?
DEAL.
BUT NOBODY EATS CAKE 'TIL YOU GET BACK, HEAR?
I DON'T KNOW... SHOULD I GO...?
SIGHHH...
SLAM!

RIGHT?
AH!
AH! LOOKS LIKE WE GOT TWO OF 'EM THEN.
DID YOU GET THE SCARF DONE?
VICTORY!
I BROUGHT CHRISTMAS CAKE!
WELL, SHALL WE GO TOGETHER, YASOTA-KUN...?
NAH.
KYAAA! NABESHIMA-SAN! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!
OH!


WOW!
IT REALLY IS HUGE!
I KNOW YOU'LL BE HAPPY...
...FROM NOW 'TIL FOREVER.


SO FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...
KOFF

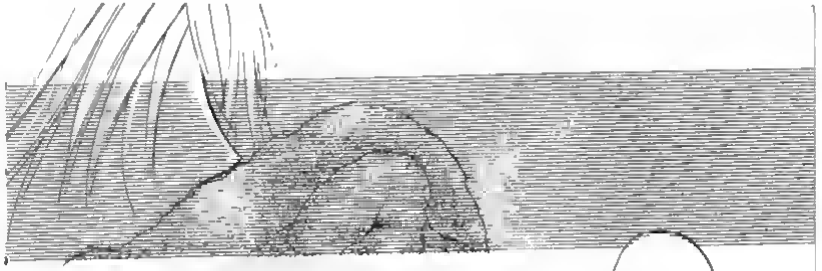
!
RATTLE
THE LIGHT'S ON...
OOH!
IT WAS FINISHED ...
I DON'T HAVE TO WISH FOR IT.

I'LL GET GOING SOON AS I FINISH THIS SMOKE.
I KNOW YOU GUYS GOT A CAKE TO DIG INTO...
FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE...
YOU SURE? IT'D BE A BIG HELP.

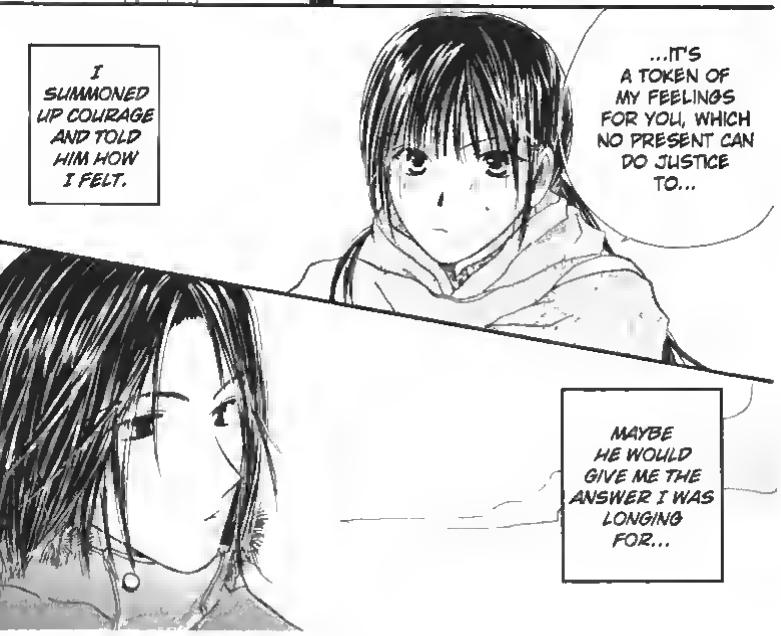
...FADES AWAY.

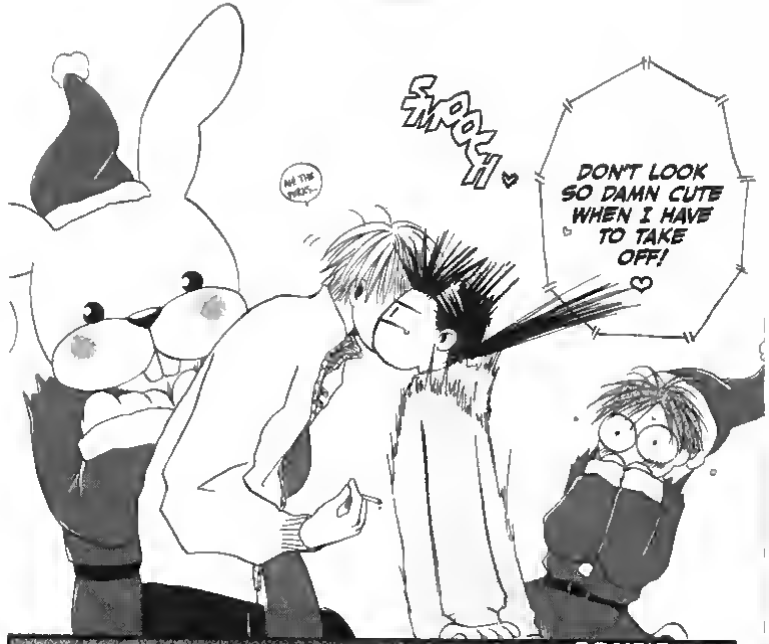
AFTER THAT, YOU CAN...

...LAUGH ALL YOU WANT.



I KNOW THIS IS...
...REALLY SMALL...
NOT TO MENTION A FREEBIE...
HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ME...
....BUT...
TONIGHT IS CHRISTMAS EVE...
...AND THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS IN THE AIR, NUDGING ME IN THE BACK.
NABESHIMA-SAN. HERE...
KO.
I DIDN'T DO ANY THING!
YASUTA-SAN ABANDONED EN-CHAN'S BODY RIGHT BEFORE AGUMA-SAN WENT ON THE WARPATH...


I SUMMONED UP COURAGE AND TOLD HIM HOW I FELT.
...IT'S A TOKEN OF MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, WHICH NO PRESENT CAN DO JUSTICE TO...
MAYBE HE WOULD GIVE ME THE ANSWER I WAS LONGING FOR...


SNUGGLY
DON'T LOOK SO DAMN CUTE WHEN I HAVE TO TAKE OFF!
NO THE PANTS...

FWEET-FOO
BORROWED COAT
IT'S NOT LIKE THERE WAS A CHOICE. EN-CHAN COULDN'T EVEN STAND UP!
...GETTING TO HAVE YOU CHAPERONE ME HOME.
SIGHHH... I'M SO LUCKY...
FADE OUT

お迎えです。

OMUKAEDESU.

FEELINGS, HUH...?
THEN I REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
...AND MAYBE NOT.
...THESE TWO SOMEHOW LOOK LIKE A COUPLE BEFORE MARRIAGE.
USED TO THIS KIND OF THING
MEAN-WHILE...

THE NEW YEAR RINGS IN.
CLANG
MAY EN-CHAN WORK HIS ASS OFF FOR ME THIS YEAR, TOO!!
FOR A NEW WORLD...
"LET'S PROTECT JAPANESE CULTURE" MONTH
GOOD ONE, EH?

BACKGROUND SCENE OF NO IMPORTANCE 4

THE MODEL FOR YASOTA-KUN IS A WELL-KNOWN ACTOR/MUSICIAN... BUT NOBODY NOTICED.

PRESENT?
EH?
THAT
DID YOU GET AGUMA-SAN'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT?
AH...
BUT I THOUGHT SHE...?
WELL, WE'VE GOTTA GET GOING.
HERE YA GO!
SLAP
UMANO SHRINE
HUH?
DON'T BE A STRANGER!
DA DA DA
NABESHIMA-SAN.. NABESHIMA-SAN!

EN-CHAN, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?
HAH?
WILL I BE ABLE TO...
...GET THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR SAFELY?
LET'S GET YOUR NEW YEAR FORTUNES!
...
YAY!
LUCK LUCK LUCKY LUCKY!
ONE THAT'LL COVER YOU ALL YEAR 'ROUND.
HMM...
THAT'S A SWITCH!
YOU'RE GONNA BUY ME ONE?
YOU'R KIDDING, RIGHT?
RED AND GREEN...THAT REMINDS ME...
BY THE WAY, NABESHIMA-SAN...
GIVE ME ONE GREEN AND ONE RED, MY GOOD MAN...
YOU GOT IT.
HUH, I'M ACTUALLY A LITTLE TOUCHED.
...ALL RIGHT, THEN. GREEN.

WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO TAKE GIFTS THAT HAVE ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS ATTACHED TO 'EM.
REGULATIONS.
WHY NOT?
FLIP
WHAT?!
SO IF THAT'S CLEARED UP, I'LL JUST BE ON MY WAY...
KNOCK IT OFF!
CHOKE
YANK
THAT'S NOT A REASON!
WOULD YOU ACCEPT MY PRESENT THEN?!
OR IF IT IS LEGIT, ANSWER ME THIS! WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THERE WERE NO SUCH RULE?!

YEAH, YOU COULD SAY THAT.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT CHRISTMAS?
"THEN I..."
"...REALLY CAN'T ACCEPT IT."
YOU AND EN-CHAN WERE SO ENGROSSED IN "PLAYING HOUSE," I COULDN'T FIND IT IN ME TO CALL OUT FOR YOU TO LET ME IN!
FROM THE WINDOW
IS HE USING HER AS A PILLOW?
THAT WAS ONE LONELY CHRISTMAS!
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!!
HE'S ALWAYS PULLING STUFF LIKE THAT!
AND I ONLY TOLERATED IT BECAUSE HE WAS INJURED

"I'M ALREADY DEA.."
WHUMP
DAMN!
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AGAIN!
BASH
THIS IS NO GOOD. I NEED TO TAKE A BREAK...
...BEFORE I END UP HURTING MYSELF.
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO REMIND ME ABOUT...

WELL, IF I WEREN'T WITH G.S.G., I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FOLLOW ANY RULES LIKE THAT.
BUT THEN AGAIN, IF I WEREN'T WITH G.S.G. I WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE, WOULD I?
DON'T FORGET...

BODY.
I'M LOSING MY BODY
I CAN'T EVEN BOUND UP THE STAIRS LIKE I USED TO!
A LONG TIME BACK, I BELONGED TO THE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB, SO FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, I WAS FORCED TO RUN AROUND, AN EXPERIENCE THAT I BELIEVED GAVE ME, IF NOTHING ELSE, GOOD, SOLID BODY STRENGTH. HAVE I NOW REACHED THE END OF THAT YOUTHFUL STRENGTH? ALTHOUGH I SUPPOSE I SHOULD ADMIT THAT MY TRACK AND FIELD EVENT WAS THE SHOT PUT.
MAGNIFICO
OH, AND I WASN'T VERY GOOD. NOT EVEN CLOSE TO OLYMPIC LEVEL, LIKE...
I DIDN'T SHOUT WHEN I MADE MY THROWS ♡ THAT'S TOO SCARY...
OH!
SACHI, YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE...?!
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD...
HUH?! HE'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND!
KYAAA!
HEY!
THIS ONE WAS TAKEN 10 YEARS AGO?
MAN! YOU HAVEN'T AGED AT ALL! BEAUTIFUL!
THUMBS UP
WHY, MADOKA-KUN. ♡ YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL!

SIGH ...
CRAP. THINK I WORE MYSELF OUT...
WOW. REALLY? KARATE SINCE SHE WAS THREE?
THAT'S RIGHT!
...WHAT I KNOW ALL TOO WELL!
HUH. WITH HER HOUSE DOUBLING AS A DOJO, SHE'S GOTTA BE STRONG
AH! HERE'S A CUTE PICTURE!
ALBUM
WE TOOK THAT ONE FOR THE SHICHI-GO-SAN FESTIVAL* ♡
CAN I GET YOU SOME MORE TEA?
RELAX
RELAX
RELAX

* FESTIVAL ON NOVEMBER 15TH FOR CHILDREN OF 3, 5 OR 7 YEARS OF AGE.

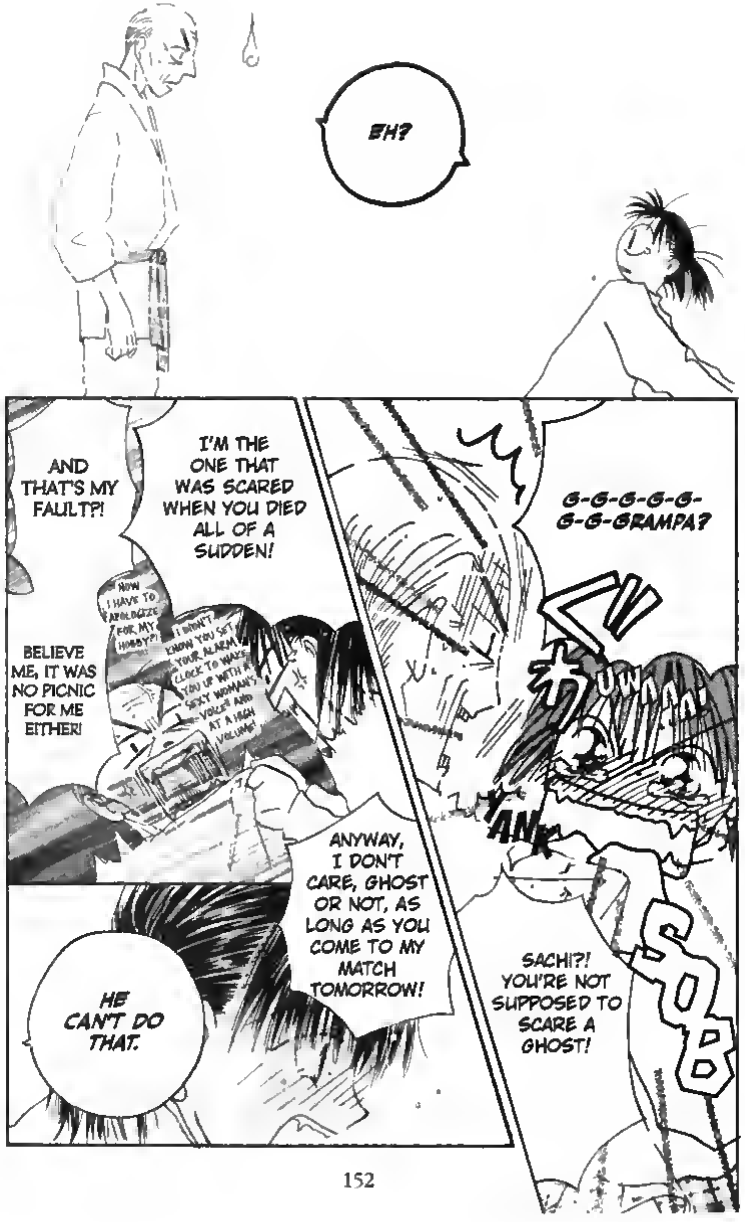
GRIMACE
?!
GULP
...NO, REALLY.
OBVIOUSLY, IT WASN'T "NOTHING"
GASP!!
NOPE! NOTHING!!
COME ON...
NOTHING HAPPENED.
SAME OLD, SAME OLD.
GRANDPA AND SACHI AT THE DOJO
FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...
...UP 'TIL NOW...

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, MADOKA-KUN!
SEE YOU!
AND DON'T YOU EVER TRY TO INSINUATE YOURSELF INTO MY FAMILY'S GOOD GRACES!
HOW DARE YOU TALK ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK!!
"MADOKA-KUN"?
JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?!
MOTHER! GIVE US A LITTLE PRIVACY, PLEASE?!
EH..?
YOU CUT TO THE CHASE, DON'T YOU?
...IT'S ABOUT CHRISTMAS.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
.....SO SPILL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ACTUALLY...

...REGIONAL TOURNAMENT STARTS TOMORROW.
MUMBLE
...WAS MY GRAND-FATHER'S GIRL.
HOW COULD YOU JUST LEAVE ME LIKE THAT?!
WAAAA!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME IN THE RING DURING MY MATCHES...
...WAS THE SIGHT OF GRANDPA IN THE STANDS.
BUT NOW...
SOB
-SNIFF-
I GOT IT FROM YOU...
SACHI! WHAT A NASTY MOUTH!
WAAA!
STUPID GRAMPA!

GRANDPA HAMMERING IT UP AGAIN
...NOTHING'S CHANGED BETWEEN US.
+++ 3 Years Ago +++
...THIS TIME FOR HIS FUNERAL PHOTO.
MY GRANDFATHER WAS THE INSTRUCTOR AT OUR FAMILY DOJO.
HE WAS MY KARATE EACHER.
HALF-PINT!
GRRR!
HE LOOKS STUPID LIKE THAT...
AND I...
SACHI AGUMA
14 YEARS OLD

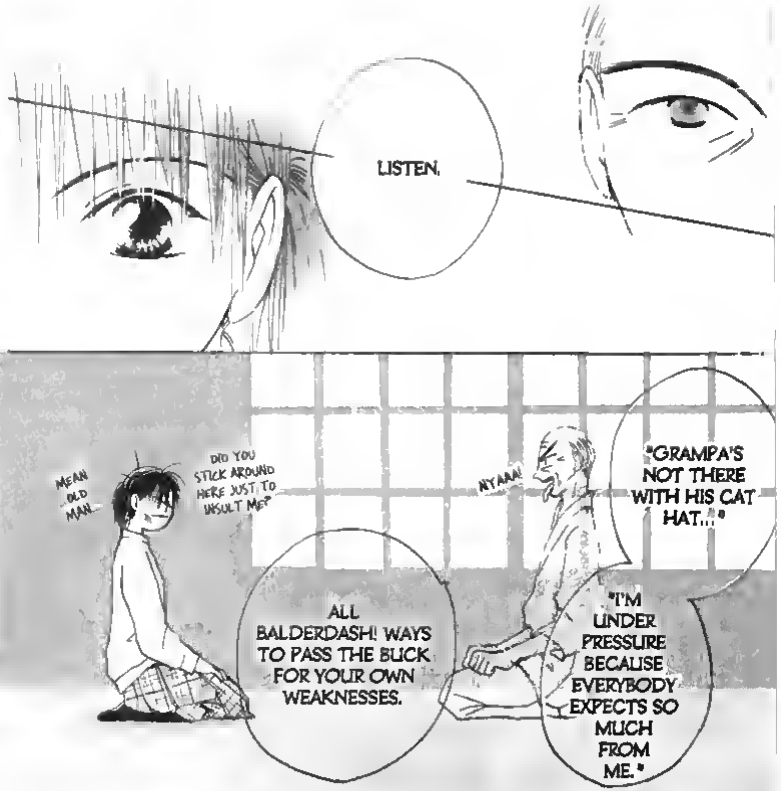
THIS WAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
WHAT ARE YOU, A MINIMUM?
STARE
...HEY, WAIT A SEC.
THE GIRL CAN SEE ME?
HIS DEADLINE IS TONIGHT...
ANYWAY, MAYBE WE CAN STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT WITH YOU HERE.
AS YOU'RE THE GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THIS GUY...
...I CAN APPRECIATE HOW YOU FEEL, BUT GIVE IT UP. YEESH!
CRYING 'TIL YOU'RE DEHYDRATED ISN'T GONNA CHANGE A DAMN THING.
...AH.
...AND HE WON'T BE GOING TO ANY EARTHLY PLACE AFTER THAT.


EH?
G-G-G-G-G-G-G-GRAMPA?
UWAAA!
YANK
SOB
SACHI?! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SCARE A GHOST!
I'M THE ONE THAT WAS SCARED WHEN YOU DIED ALL OF A SUDDEN!
AND THAT'S MY FAULT?!
BELIEVE ME, IT WAS NO PICNIC FOR ME EITHER!
NOW I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR MY HOBBY?!
I WON'T LET YOU SET YOUR ALARM CLOCK TO WAKE YOU UP WITH A SEXY WOMAN'S VOICE AND AT A HIGH VOLUME!
ANYWAY, I DON'T CARE, GHOST OR NOT, AS LONG AS YOU COME TO MY MATCH TOMORROW!
HE CAN'T DO THAT.

BUZZ BUZZ
LUCKY HAT
YOU WEREN'T EMBARRASSED?
I TAKE IT BACK! IT'S A LUCKY CHARM!
GOOD LUCK! MEOW
AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER IF I DON'T SEE THAT CAT HAT IN THE CROWD...
YOU WORE THAT TO CHEER HER ON?!
I WANTED TO SEE YOUR MATCH SO BADLY...
--WELL, YOU CAN SEE HOW BADLY!
BUT HE SAID THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
SO LET ME GIVE YOU SOME FINAL ADVICE.
SCUFF
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
HUH.
RUSTLE
SIT DOWN, SACHI.

SHE'S THE ONE KEEPIN' YOU CHAINED TO THIS EARTH WITH HER FRICKIN' CRYING!!
DIED, SENILE, DID YOU?!
SHE'S CRYING FOR MY SAKE!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
CLINK
HAH? WHAT ARE YOU PISSED AT ME FOR?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO MY GRAND-DAUGHTER ?!?
!
NO, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
RUB RUB
B-BECAUSE OF ME...?

...AND I'M SURE THERE'LL BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WATCHING YOU.
AND WHOEVER IT IS, I HOPE YOU'LL WATCH OUT FOR HIM, TOO.
DAMMIT, I TOLD HIM NOT TO LEAVE WITHOUT ME!
SKIPS OUT ON HIS OWN GUIDE...
UNF
GET STRONG.
HEY.
CUT IT OUT.
WOULD YOU...
HEY!


LISTEN.
MEAN OLD MAN.
DID YOU STICK AROUND HERE JUST TO INSULT ME?
NYAAA!
"GRAMPA'S NOT THERE WITH HIS CAT HAT..."
ALL BALDERDASH! WAYS TO PASS THE BUCK FOR YOUR OWN WEAKNESSES.
"I'M UNDER PRESSURE BECAUSE EVERYBODY EXPECTS SO MUCH FROM ME."

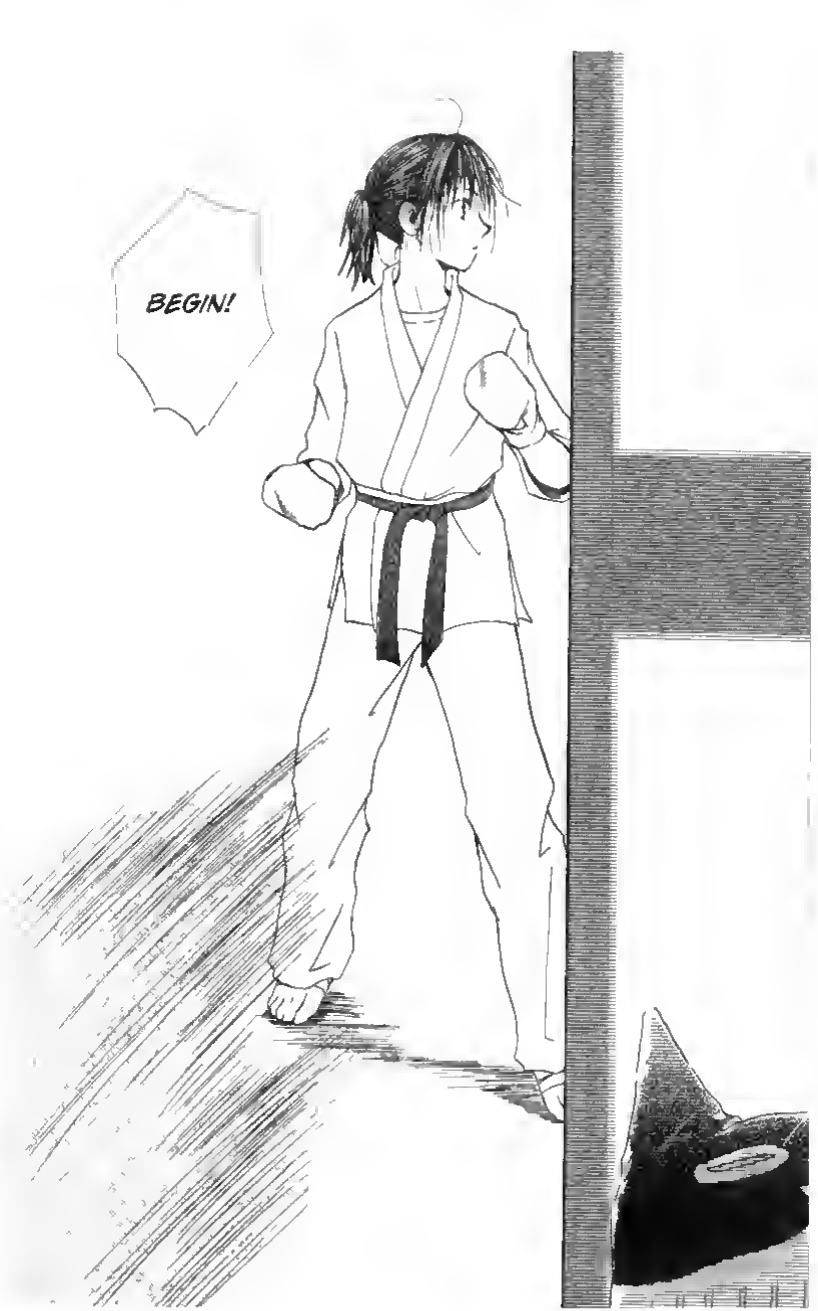
DO THAT...
...AND THEN DO WHAT YOU CAN DO, WITH ALL OF YOUR MIGHT.
DON'T RUN AWAY FROM YOUR WEAKNESSES. ACKNOWLEDGE THEM...

...JUST...
YOU WERE TOO HARD ON HER!
...BUT WHO WAS THAT GUY?
WITH ALL THE FUSS, IT DIDN'T CROSS MY MIND AT THE TIME...
DAZED
HE WORE HIS SHOES IN HERE...
* FYI, JAPANESE ALWAYS LEAVE THEIR SHOES AT THE DOOR
NAG NAG
YOU'RE BAD!
YOU'RE BAD! IT'S YOUR FAULT!
IF MY GRANDDAUGHTER LOSES HER MATCH NOW, IT'LL BE YOUR FAULT!
...A DREAM...?
...MY FAULT?
NOT ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU TOLD HER, OLD MAN!
WHAT I TOLD EACH OF YOU WAS TWO DIFFERENT THINGS!
AGUMA-SENPAI ♡
...TURN OFF THE WATERWORKS?!
...OH, WHAT DO YOU CARE?
AH...
I...
AH, FORGET IT!
SEE YA 'ROUND.
WAS ALL OF THAT...
HERE.
I JUST DON'T WANNA SEE IT, IS ALL.

BURBLE
AHHH... SHOOT!
AGUMA VISION
BURBLE
CAUGHT MYSELF...
BOW!
HEH-HEH.
...LOOKING FOR HIM...
BOING
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
THE QUEEN OF VANITY
GOOD LUCK!
...I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO KNOW IT!!

AGUMA GOES TO AN ALL-GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
AREN'T YOU NERVOUS?
NOT EVEN A SMIDGE!!
WE'RE ALL ROOTING FOR YOU!
THANKS!
NATCH!
DO YOUR BEST. ♡
I'M WEAK.
I KNOW IT. I ACKNOWLEDGE IT.
ZAAA
TOILET
SLAM
I'M SURE THEY'D THINK OTHER-WISE...
KYAAH SHE'S SO COOL!!
NERVE
DONATING HER LUNCH DUE TO MAJOR ANXIETY.
...IF THEY COULD SEE ME NOW!
FROM MORIOKA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, SACHI AGUMA-SAN.
BUT...

POP
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
GOTCHA!!
GRRR
WAAA!
WAAA

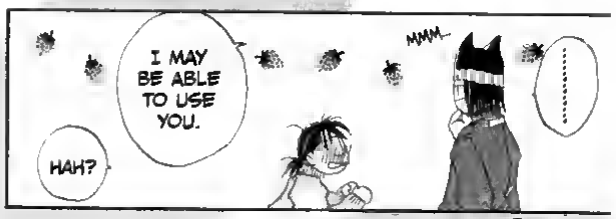

BEGIN!

TAKE IT EASY, MEDIUM GIRL.
"CRYBABY?"
W-
WAIT!
YEAH?
NOW WHAT?
WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?
AND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, A MAN SAID TO ME...

MMM... GOOD QUESTION.
I GUESS I FIGURED I COULD AT LEAST REPORT TO YOUR GRAMPA...
...HOW YOU DID AT THE MATCH... ...SEEING AS HOW...TACTLESS I WAS LAST NIGHT.
SO THERE'S AN APOLOGY IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
...HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
ORDINARY HUMANS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME!
FORGET THAT! TELL ME WHY! WHY'D YOU COME?!
...YOU WERE PRETTY DAMN STRONG OUT THERE. THE CHAMPIONSHIP!
NOT TOO SHABBY FOR A CRYBABY.
RUFFLE RUFFLE
GAAA!
HEH.
Y'KNOW...
ALL RIGHT?
NUCH

HAS BESSIE BEEN GETTING BIGGER AGA...?
AGUMA-SAN...
SLURP

...I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF.
HOW DID SACHI GET INVOLVED IN THE FIRST PLACE WITHOUT ME NOTICING...?
WHAT? ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT BREAKING UP?
THUMP THUMP
PEEPING TOM MOM


HAH?
I MAY BE ABLE TO USE YOU.
MMM...

FROM THE FIRST TIME WE MET, MY HEART RACED WHEN HE WAS NEAR...
HAH?
NOW DON'T BE GETTING UP YOUR HOPES OR ANY-THING...
...BUT I COULD REGISTER YOU WITH THE COMPANY.

...EVEN IF HE...
AND EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THAT FROM THE GET-GO...
ULP LONG TIME NO SEE... AND THAT'S HOW I WANTED TO KEEP IT!
...DOESN'T LIVE IN THIS WORLD.
POP

NO MATTER HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF TIMES... HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES...I'VE TRIED SHOWING HIM HOW I FEEL...
...NO MATTER THAT IT'S CLEAR BY NOW HE UNDERSTANDS WHERE I'M COMING FROM...
...HE'S NEVER GIVEN ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER.
I KNOW ALL THIS...
FYOOO

BACKGROUND SCENE OF NO IMPORTANCE 5

DURING A MATCH
GO GET 'EM, SACHI!
SENSEI, AT LEAST WEAR SOMETHING MORE APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR AGE WHEN YOU CHEER HER ON.
ONE OF GRANDPA'S STUDENTS

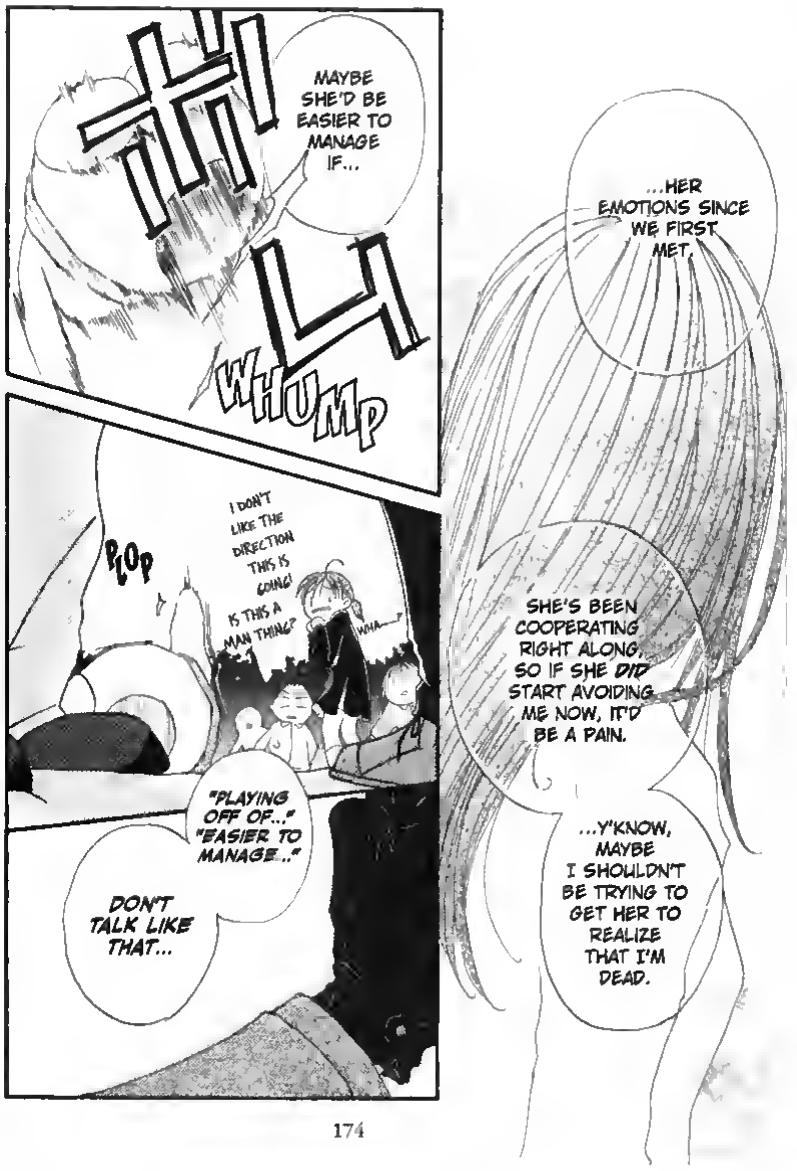
WELL, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
...A BUNCH OF KIDS.
OKAY, BOYS AND GIRLS, YOUR "BIG BROTHER'S" HERE TO PLAY WITH YOU!
YAAY!

...SO WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE...
...AM I STILL HOPING TO GET FROM HIM?
お迎えです。
OMUKAEDESU.

AM I WORKIN' ALONE TODAY?
NO...
I MEAN, I CALLED AGUMA, TOO, BUT...I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S GONNA SHOW...
...YOU DON'T SAY.
RUMBLE
YOU'VE BEEN GLOWERING AT ME SINCE WE GOT HERE!
I'M SURE IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION
RUMBLE
NAAAH.
I'VE BEEN PLAYING OFF OF...
I THOUGHT MAYBE AGUMA-SAN WAS AVOIDING YOU.

KYAAA!
PANTIES!
PANTIES!
HEY! I'M SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!
SO YOUR JOB IS TO PLAY WITH THEM, EN-CHAN...
THESE KIDS WON'T GO WITH US BECAUSE THEY SAY THEY WANT TO PLAY IN THE SNOW.
CARLSBAD LOVE PLAYING IN THE SNOW, SO
I'M A FIGURE SKATER, SEE? AND I'M REALLY COLD
THIS MONTH'S THEME IS WINTER SPORTS.
WE'LL BE BACK IN, SAY, THREE OR FOUR HOURS.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A SNOWBOARDER. CHECK OUT THE SHADES!
BUILD A SNOWMAN FOR 'EM, ET CETERA. YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT...
RUMBLE
...HEY!!

* TERM OF RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP FOR A BIG BROTHER-LIKE PERSON


MAYBE SHE'D BE EASIER TO MANAGE IF...
WHUMP
POP
I DON'T LIKE THE DIRECTION THIS IS GOING! IS THIS A MAN THING?
WHA—?
"PLAYING OFF OF..." "EASIER TO MANAGE..."
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...
...HER EMOTIONS SINCE WE FIRST MET.
SHE'S BEEN COOPERATING RIGHT ALONG, SO IF SHE DID START AVOIDING ME NOW, IT'D BE A PAIN.
...Y'KNOW, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE TRYING TO GET HER TO REALIZE THAT I'M DEAD.

CONTACT

IN VOLUMES 1 AND 2, I GAVE YOU MY HOMEPAGE ADDRESS, BUT I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AT THE MOMENT, THAT ADDRESS DOESN'T WORK. INSTEAD, TRY USING THE LINK FROM HAKUSENSHA'S HOMEPAGE. THANK YOU!

(CMX EDITOR NOTE: REFERS TO ORIGINAL JAPANESE PUBLISHER OF TITLE, A LINK TO TANAKA-SAN'S PAGE MAY NO LONGER BE OPERATIVE.)

SEND ME YOUR THOUGHTS, OPINIONS, IMPRESSIONS, ANYTHING! TO:
MECA TANAKA/
OMUKAE DESU
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT
STREET SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

MECA TANAKA.

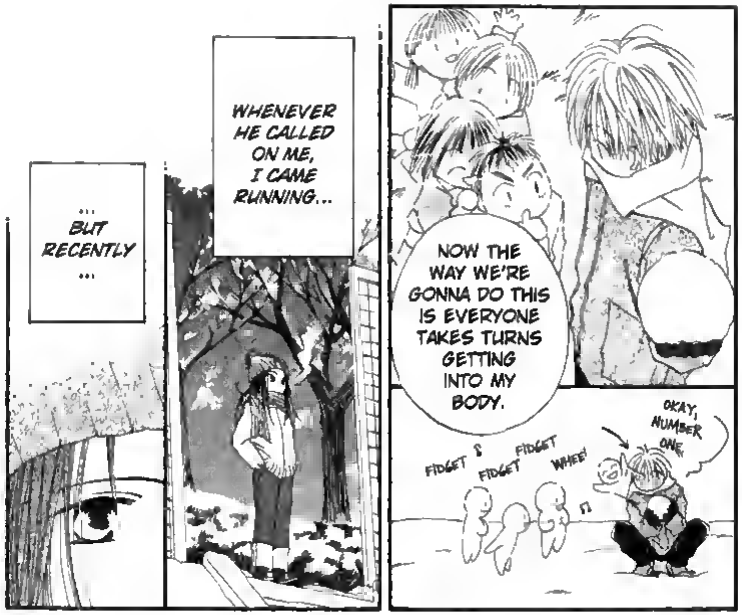
I'M READING ALL OF YOUR LETTERS AND POSTCARDS
♡
AND SENDING A RESPONSE TO ALL FIRST-TIME WRITERS. IF YOU'RE WAITING, PLEASE BE PATIENT, OKAY?

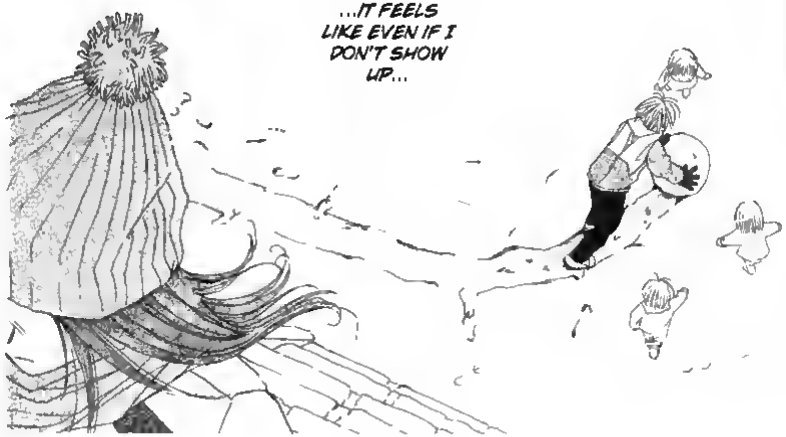
SEE YOU AT THE END OF THE BOOK!

THERE'S NOT TOO MUCH MECASITE THIS TIME AROUND...

ALL TOGETHER!
ANIKI!
TURN
BEING CALLED THAT BY A BUNCH OF KIDS DOESN'T DO ANYTHING FOR ME.
YEAH...?
ANYWAY, LET'S GO FIND A PLACE WHERE THERE'S A LOTTA SNOW.
WHEE! WHEE! WHEE!
...NABESHIMA-SAN!
IF YOU KEEP IT UP WITH THE INSENSITIVE COMMENTS, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF SHORT ON PART-TIME WORKERS...
HEY, I'VE NEVER LIED TO THEM.
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!

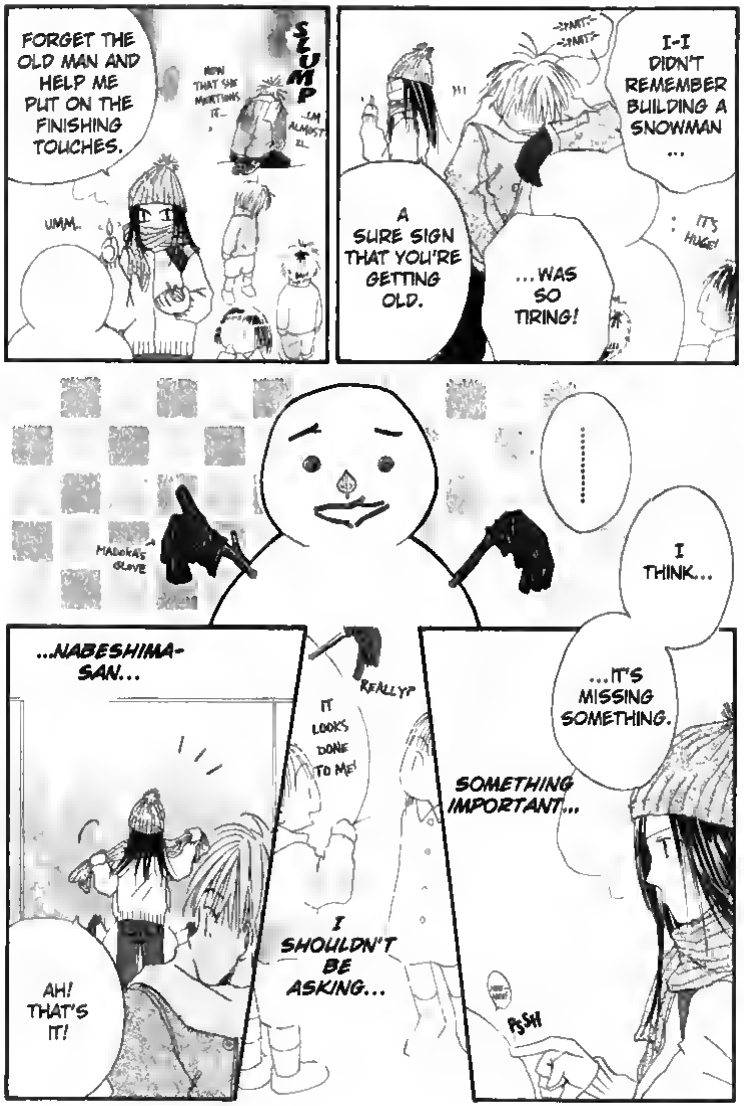
DON'T MAKE ME LOSE MY TEMPER HERE!
I DON'T WANNA GET OUT!
WAAA!
LET'S ALL GO IN TOGETHER!
UWAAA! WAIT A SECOND!
THAT'S A VERY BAD IDEA...!
THIS A HORROR STORY NOW?!
WAAA!
HEEELP!
WAAA! GOOD IDEA!
I SAID WE'RE TAKING TURNS, REMEMBER?!
NOW COME OUT RIGHT THIS SECOND!
EH?!
NOOO! I WANNA PLAY SOME MORE!
YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW THE RULES!
NO FAIR! NO FAIR!
I WANNA GET IN HIS BODY, TOO!
YEAH
WAIT! I KNOW!


...BUT RECENTLY...
WHENEVER HE CALLED ON ME, I CAME RUNNING...
NOW THE WAY WE'RE GONNA DO THIS IS EVERYONE TAKES TURNS GETTING INTO MY BODY.
FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET
WHEE!
OKAY, NUMBER ONE.


...IT FEELS LIKE EVEN IF I DON'T SHOW UP...

I'M SORRY!
GOOD.
WHOOSH
SOCIETY'S RULES ARE NO DIFFERENT WHETHER YOU'RE DEAD OR ALIVE!
MAXIMUM SCARY FACE
WHOOSH
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
!
WHOOSH
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE...
...I WAS ABOUT TO GO HOME.
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU'D BEEN ON GUARD!
WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.
NOW, SHALL WE SEE IF IT'S TRUE THAT...
...BAD CHILDREN GO TO HELL!!

ENOUGH
YOU...
...BUNGLING SAP!!!
WHUP
IS THIS THE INSTIGATOR?
SNATCH
TREMBLE
WHINE


FORGET THE OLD MAN AND HELP ME PUT ON THE FINISHING TOUCHES.
SLUMP
UMM.
I-I DIDN'T REMEMBER BUILDING A SNOWMAN ...
A SURE SIGN THAT YOU'RE GETTING OLD.
...WAS SO TIRING!
IT'S HUGE!
MADOKA'S GLOVE
I THINK...
...IT'S MISSING SOMETHING.
...NABESHIMA-SAN...
REALLY?
IT LOOKS DONE TO ME!
SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
I SHOULDN'T BE ASKING...
AH! THAT'S IT!
PSSH!

EH?
WITHOUT YOU AROUND, AGUMA-SAN, IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
NOT TO MENTION, IT'S SCARY BEING ALONE WITH THIS JOB...
NOW, THIS TIME FOR SURE, WE TAKE TURNS, GOT IT?!
OKAY!
ANYBODY WHO CAUSES TROUBLE HAS TO FACE HER.
DON'T THREATEN THEM WITH ME!
...HIT ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
GRUNT
GRUNT
GRUNT
GRUNT
PACK
...OOF!
HUH?
OKAY, LET'S GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF SNOWMAN-BUILDING
I THINK HE...

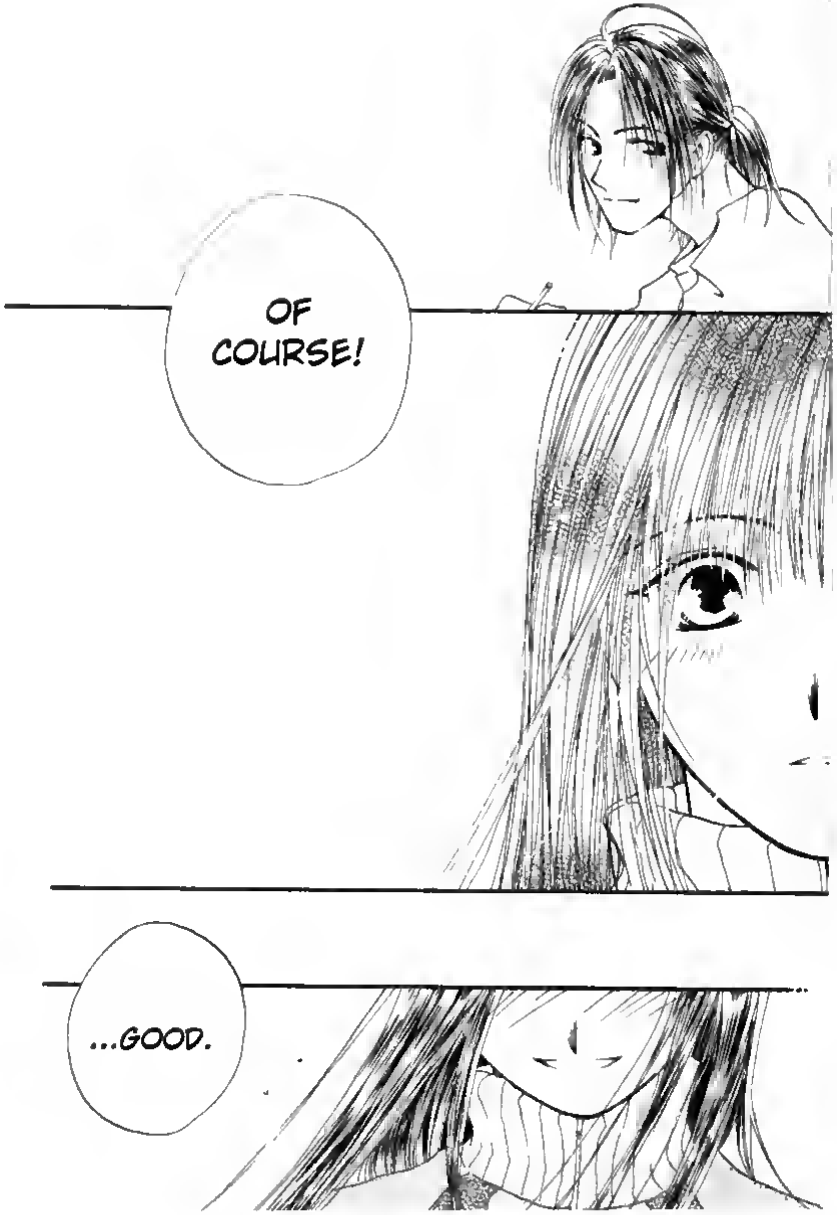
* SAME AS "ANIKI" BUT USED WITH OLDER GIRLS (OR AN OLDER SISTER)

AM I...
...USEFUL TO YOU?
I MEAN, DO YOU CONSIDER ME...
... HELPFUL?

WHI ZZZ
WHAT? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
KOFF
NOT THAT I SAW.
ISN'T SHE ALWAYS THAT WAY?
YOU HAVE A POINT
YUZUKO!
WHERE'S NABESHIMA-SAN?!
GRAB
...OVER THERE, WITH THE BIKE.

NABESHIMA-SAN!
MM?
GOTTA TAKE OFF HALF THE COSTUME TO GRAB A SMOKE-THANG. A GUY'S GOTTA GO THROUGH.
BRRRR...

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
REALLY...
I REALLY DO THINK SO.
AREN'T WE GOING HOME?
NOT RIGHT AWAY.
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
WELL, OKAY!
WELL, KIDS, ARE YOU READY TO GET GOING?
YEH!
OH, THAT'S A DAMN FINE SNOWMAN!
EH? WHERE?


OF COURSE!
...GOOD.

I DECIDED...
PROTECTIVE CHARM
HOW ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THEM ALL?
WHUMP
SIGH
...THAT I'D NEVER LET HIM SEE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN.
THANKS.
GOOD JOB.

?!
AGUMA!
GRAB!

OH YEAH... WAIT A SEC.
ANIKI! ANEKI! BYE-BYE!
WHAT?

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

...DO YOU LOOK SO UNHAPPY?
I PRAY WE CAN BE TOGETHER MORE...
I'LL BECOME...

AGUMA-SAN...
I WOULD NEVER CRY IN FRONT OF HIM AGAIN.
WHAT?
LEAVE ME ALONE! THIS IS A HAPPY CRY...
I WOULD NEVER MAKE TROUBLE FOR HIM LIKE THAT AGAIN.
THEN WHY...

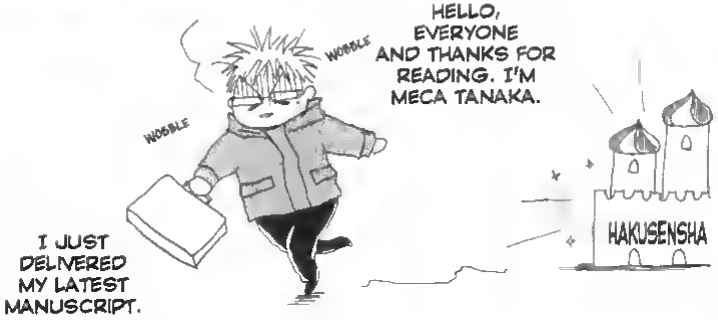
...SO SHUT UP...
...AND CRY ON MINE NOW.
I'LL GET STRONGER...
SO JUST FOR NOW...
NNN...

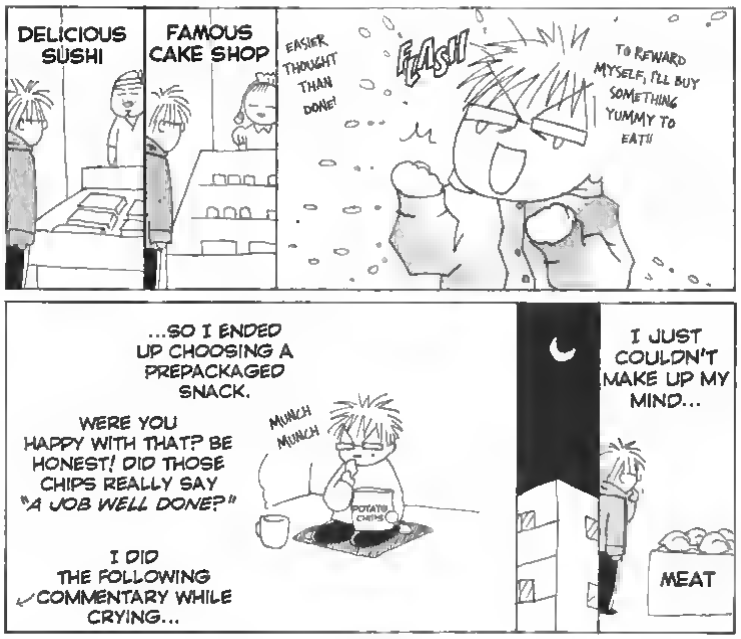
...STRONGER.
PAT
!
L-
LET GO OF ME, YOU DIRTY OLD LECHER!!
GRRR
KICK KICK
WHATEVER... CALL ME WHAT YOU WANT...
...BUT YOU LET ME CRY ON YOUR SHOULDER IN THE SUMMER...

I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL... BETTER THAN NORMAL... SOON.
SO CALL ME, OKAY?
CALL ME ANYTIME YOU NEED ME...
...AND I'LL COME RUNNING.
RUSTLE
NABESHIMA-SAN!
TODAY IS 2/14 St. Valentine's Day

UWAAAAん
もおやだああ
I TRIED PUTTING ON A BRAVE FACE, BUT GOD, IT HURTS!
I HATE THIS!
WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE... ...YOU WANT THEM TO DO THINGS FOR YOU!
UH-HUH...
YOU WANNA BE REWARDED FOR YOUR LOVE! BUT-BUT...
I DID SAY TO SHUT UP AND CRY...
I SEE...
UWAAA
...WAIT FOR ME.

MECASITE CONDENSED VERSION!




DELICIOUS SUSHI
FAMOUS CAKE SHOP
EASIER THOUGHT THAN DONE!
FLASH
TO REWARD MYSELF, I'LL BUY SOMETHING YUMMY TO EAT!!
...SO I ENDED UP CHOOSING A PREPACKAGED SNACK.
WERE YOU HAPPY WITH THAT? BE HONEST! DID THOSE CHIPS REALLY SAY "A JOB WELL DONE?"
MUNCH MUNCH
POTATO CHIPS
I DID THE FOLLOWING COMMENTARY WHILE CRYING...
I JUST COULDN'T MAKE UP MY MIND...
MEAT

OMUKAE DESU. (3): THE END

THANKS!

YAMAMOTO-SAMA
CHILD PLANET
MY EDITOR
EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME
EVERYONE WHO READ THIS BOOK

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

MECA TANAKA

"MADOKA-STYLE JOKES" IS ON HIATUS THIS MONTH AS MADOKA IS STILL IN MOURNING.

MECASITE CONDENSED VERSION!: THE END

THIS TIME AROUND, EN-CHAN AND AGUMA-SAN KIND OF HAD IT ROUGH. ESPECIALLY EN-CHAN. UP UNTIL NOW, HE'S ALWAYS HELPED OTHER PEOPLE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN SAYING A FINAL GOODBYE TO SOMEONE AND HE FOUND THAT IT REALLY HURTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT STORY GOT A HUGE RESPONSE FROM READERS. IT SEEMS THAT MS. CHISATO OGAWA IS A FAN OF EN-CHAN, TOO, WHICH REASSURES ME THAT (I THINK) I'M GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

AT THE MOMENT, IT APPEARS THAT AGUMA-SAN HAS BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED SUPPORTING CHARACTER... OUT OF ALL THE CHARACTERS IN OMUKAE, SHE'S THE ONLY INEXPERIENCED GIRL, SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HOW HER CHARACTER GROWS UP... IF SHE DOES GROW UP, THAT IS. AS FOR YUZUKO, SHE SEEMS THE MOST ADULT OF THE BUNCH, ABLE TO BRUSH OFF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AS WELL AS DEAL WITH HER PARTNER'S SELFISHNESS...

NOT AN ADULT ON THE OUTSIDE, THAT'S FOR SURE

Hop on the soul express!

WHAT IF YOU COULD SEE DEAD PEOPLE AND A GUY IN A GIANT BUNNY SUIT TRYING TO GET THEM TO THE OTHER SIDE?

YUZUKO IS ALLOWED A BRIEF MEETING WITH THE BOYFRIEND SHE HAD WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE. BUT IF SHE TRIES TO REKINDLE THIS RELATIONSHIP, SHE'S FINISHED WITH GSG. A GHOSTLY GIRL STALKS MADOKA-JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU FIND OUT WHY. AND THE GANG TAKES ON CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR, AND VALENTINE'S DAY ALL IN ONE VOLUME!

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